

# BAY WATCH NEWS



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## Why the Upcoming City Council Election Is Important to Bonita Bay Residents

*By Dave Shellenbarger, Woodlake*

**OFF-SEASON ELECTIONS** draw less interest than national elections, but the upcoming March 17 municipal election is important to Bonita Bay voters for several reasons. Bonita Bay resident Chris Corrie is running for the vacant City Council District 4 seat (Bonita Bay's district). Changes to the city charter are also on the ballot and without the confusion that comes with national elections, we can take time to understand the issues and vote to fill the vacant seat with a Bonita Bay resident. Additionally, resident Cathleen Morgan is standing for re-election to the county school board, her third four-year term.

The vacant District 4 seat was occupied by Bonita Bay resident Peter O'Flinn, who also served as Vice Mayor. O'Flinn resigned in October to protest a 4-3 decision by City Council to move the regular city election from March to November, on the same day as the national elections. In 1999 city charter authors deliberately chose the March election date to avoid "burying" the city election in the complicated federal and state ballots in November. The majority council faction, led by Bonita Bay resident and Mayor Peter Simmons, wanted to move the election to November to save money on election costs. This decision gave Simmons and others an eight-month term extension, and O'Flinn believes those date and term extensions should only be made with voter approval, not by council action.

With O'Flinn's seat vacant, Bonita Bay resident Chris Corrie

*continued on page 8*

## The Gala of the Royal Horses

STORY ON PAGE 21



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# Editor's Notes

***“Love is a friendship set to music.”***

--Joseph Campbell (1904 – 1987),  
American professor of literature

We have added a few new features this season, including our entertainment calendar with local venue listings. We have Broadway-quality entertainment right in our backyard and want to draw your attention to the numerous offerings. This issue we are also soliciting opinions for our On the Bookshelf section. Have reading recommendations? Drop us a line at [lauren@baywatchnews.com](mailto:lauren@baywatchnews.com).

Additionally, don't forget to send us your classified ads. We continue to get positive feedback from buyers and sellers who use our classified listings.

This is also your last opportunity to sign up for our Chubb Classic “Inside the Ropes” contest. The drawing will be held the first week of February, and one lucky winner (plus a guest) will enjoy the opportunity to walk along with the pros during this fantastic local tournament. You can enter at our website [www.baywatchnews.com](http://www.baywatchnews.com).

*As usual, a reminder:*

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# Letters to the Editor

## MANGROVE TRIMMING...

It's time for Bonita Bay Community Association to stop the trimming of mangroves in conservation easements and areas mandated to be maintained in their natural condition.

Bayview I and II have been trimming the mangroves to improve the views of Estero Bay from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor units. Trimming is a euphemism since the mangroves have been essentially flat-topped from a height of 40' down to 24' over two years, resulting in a butchered appearance to the residents above the 4<sup>th</sup> floor for 3-4 months after each trim. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) assessed \$7000 in mitigation fees to the Bayview building in order to obtain the permits to mitigate the adverse effects associated with mangrove trimming.

This began when the BBCA Design Review Committee (DRC) quickly gave written approval to cut the mangroves both on BBCA property and the property of the Bayviews as long as the DEP issued a permit. Without this DRC approval, the DEP would not have even entertained an application to cut. The Florida Mangrove Act forbids trimming of mangroves in a conservation easement. Both Bayviews requested that the contractor apply to the DEP for the mangrove alteration permits. Likely due to poor diligence, the applications erroneously represented to the DEP that the mangroves were not in an area set aside for conservation and preservation.

The existence of the conservation easements has only recently come to light, even though it is Exhibit 1 in the Bayview I Condo Docs. For reasons difficult to fathom, the DEP has not revoked the permits. An Inspector General Investigation has been initiated due to the DEP's failure to uphold the Florida Mangrove Act.

The conservation easement which forms the western property border of Bayview I and Bayview II was imposed on this strip of wetlands as part of an agreement with the Florida DEP. The DEP agreed to permit construction of four boardwalks, the Estero Park pier and other projects over and in wetlands. In exchange, the BBCA agreed to restrictions on other wetlands including the conservation easement behind the Bayviews. When the Bayviews were developed, Bonita Bay Properties mandated that this wetland area with the mangroves be kept in its natural state.

Action is needed by the BBCA to enforce its own documents and the agreements the original developers before Bayview II proceeds with its next trimming in April or May.

**Mary Burke, Bayview II**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY...

The Salvation Army Mission Station is now into its third year at its present location in the Literacy Council Building on Old 41. From this station, the mission provides services to many of the needy in the community. On Mondays, qualified individuals come from 1 to 4 p.m. to pick up fresh fruits and vegetables. On



Tuesdays, the Food Pantry is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Other services and products are provided based on need, include monetary assistance, diapers, clothing and household items.

The Mission Station is a drop off donation center for the Salvation Army Thrift Center in Ft. Myers. The biggest need for the station at this time is volunteers. Help is needed at the station to bag food, stock shelves with canned goods, sort donated items, pack diapers and assist clients. During 2019 the Mission Station served more than 25,000 needy individuals.

Financial support for the Mission Station over the last 15 years has been provided by The Friends of the Salvation Army in Bonita Springs and Estero. This group was founded by two Bonita Bay residents and is now 300 members strong. The Friends volunteer throughout the year, helping the Mission Station, ringing the bell for the Kettle Drive and distributing gifts to children through Christmas Cheer.

If you would like to become a member of the Friends or volunteer some time, contact Mary Anne Hopkins at mah3801@comcast.net. For more information about the Mission Station, please contact Sarah or Jeff Clarke at 239-948-5200.

**Mary Anne Hopkins, Arbor Strand**



# Who's Who in Bonita Bay

## DENNI ENGLEHART

*By Tommy Fleming, Mahogany Ridge*

**DENNI ENGLEHART**, of Azure and Saugatuck, MI, loves art. She was an art gallery owner for many years and an art collector. Among her favorite collectibles are three pieces from Dale Chihuly, the art glass rock star from Tacoma/Seattle.



*Denni with her Chihuly acrylic painting*

Denni and her husband lived in Australia where she opened her first art gallery in Melbourne. When her husband was transferred back to Michigan with Ford, they settled in Plymouth and she began selling real estate. Then she got the art gallery bug again, and opened the Chameleon, which featured all sorts of media ... wood, glass, paintings, jewelry.

She diversified. She opened a coffee bar in the space behind her gallery. The shop was cutting edge – there wasn't even a Starbucks or a competitor in Plymouth at the time. Outback Cappuccino Bar was a sort of annex to her gallery – folks came and went from each of the two stores, wandered into the other and created traffic and sales for both businesses. She worked where she was needed – sometimes as a barista and sometimes purveying high-end art to high-end customers.

In the mid 90's, her husband Jim, who headed up the Light Truck Division of Ford Motors, was asked to deliver a speech in Seattle, and Denni went along. The organizer of the event knew that Denni was a gallery owner and collector and offered to take her to Dale Chihuly's studio, The Boathouse. She was mesmerized.

Dale, who is bipolar, was on the manic side the day she visited. He was cheerful and welcoming and generous. She and Jim purchased a cobalt blue Persian art glass sculpture, made up of seven pieces of fluted glass, similar to the ones on display at The Artis lobby. I told her if it goes missing, I would be a likely suspect. It's exquisite.

While she was there, Chihuly, who only creates in acrylic paint now after an eye injury, was painting Puttis, the Italian name for cherubs. He asked Denni her name. A few minutes later, she discovered the artist had drawn the words "Putti in the nest for Denni" into the texture of the acrylic painting. He GAVE her the painting. And another.

So in her penthouse in Azure, there is the 7-piece Persian

glass sculpture ... and two original acrylics, all created and signed by Dale Chihuly. Lucky lady.

You could say 1999 was her turning point year.

- Denni retired from the art world when Jim retired from Ford.
- They sold their home in Plymouth and spent many an hour planning their first adventure.
- They ordered a 50' Viking sports cruiser from England and took delivery of it on Anna Maria Island.
- They discovered Bonita Bay while in Florida and bought a home in Augusta Creek before they headed north.

They lived on the boat for six months – sailing the Atlantic Ocean, the Hudson River, Erie Canal, Welland Canal in Ontario, Lake Erie and Lake Huron. Among their favorite things was the joy they experienced taking their craft for a spin around the Statue of Liberty. Friends came and stayed with them. They entertained and they played tourist. Finally they made their way to Lake Michigan and their new condo on the water in Saugatuck.

Then they began to travel in earnest. They loved Italy but their favorite destination was Africa – first Kenya, then South Africa, then Uganda. Jim's photos of the gorillas and other beasts are featured on their condo walls, interspersed with the sculptures and paintings of more famous artists.

Denni lost Jim to cancer this past year, but continues to travel. It's in her blood. She hopes to get back to Melbourne and to Wellington, New Zealand, where she lived and still has friends.

She enjoys golf and mahjongg and is looking into taking up canasta. She has a Golden Doodle Minnie who loves getting Denni out and about and enjoying the animals of Bonita Bay.

Denni is still an avid fan of Chihuly and continues to follow his career. She was back in touch with him when he visited



Naples in 2010. He signed her photographs of him painting her "Puttis."

I have a niece who invented a word that often trips off her tongue – CHIHULIED. According to Hannah, It means you overpaid for something. I don't think that's the case with Denni Englehart.

*Dale Chihuly working on Denni's acrylic painting*



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## Why the Upcoming City Council Election Is Important to Bonita Bay Residents *continued from page 1*

filed as a candidate because he felt strongly that it is important for Bonita Bay to be represented by our own elected council member. Corrie has a credible record in our community. He has served on the Bonita Bay Community Association board for five years and as president for two years and has also been president of the Estancia Condominium Association board for six years with five years as president. He has a strong reputation for thoughtful problem analysis and thorough research before making decisions. He is opposed by a District 4 resident Ben Hershenson who lives near Old 41 north of downtown.

Corrie believes it is urgent to reduce traffic congestion at US-41 and Bonita Beach Road, where southbound traffic is often backed up to Terry Street. He supports the City's nascent flood control initiative for a storm water management district while planning in the long term to further address flooding problems through zoning. The City of Bonita Springs is under a compliance order from the state to reduce nitrogen discharge into area waterways, and Corrie is in favor of initiatives like the Imperial River bio-reactor currently being tested to reduce nitrogen levels are utilized. He is also working to complete the Sun Trail biking/recreational pathway through the city, and to improve zoning outcomes as the city's population is approaching 60,000.

When asked to comment about the upcoming election, Mayor Peter Simmons explained that he is supporting Hershenson because he is a long-time conservative Republican who has been interested in city issues for some time (city elections are non-partisan per charter). Simmons supported the change of the election date because Tommy Doyle, Lee County Supervisor of Elections, had asked municipalities to consider

changing their election dates to unify the county voting process to reduce elections costs. The eight-month extension of his term was not a motivating factor in Simmons' decision to change the date, but the cost savings and the increased voter turnout in November compared to March were decisive in his support for the measure.

In another important race, the Lee County school board election, will fill three vacant seats on the seven-person board. Bonita Bay resident Cathleen Morgan is an experienced board member seeking her third at-large four-year term. Morgan has been a steady and informed board member who builds consensus and provides steady leadership on an often factionalized board. She is opposed by Lisandra Colon who has not provided public information about her candidacy at this time. The 91,000-student school district relies heavily on its board members and Morgan has proven to be a steady hand at the helm during her first two terms.

The ballot also includes recommended charter changes proposed by the Charter Review Commission of the city. These are primarily procedural and communication changes to the Charter and aligns the document with the current city governance. You can read the proposed Charter changes on the *Bay Watch News* web site at [www.BayWatchNews.com](http://www.BayWatchNews.com).

And then, VOTE! Polls will be open on March 17 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and vote-by-mail ballots can be obtained through the county clerk's office at 239.533.8683. Vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed approximately 30 days before the date of the election. Your vote is important - and our Bonita Bay civic leaders deserve your consideration!



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# Why Are College Costs So High?

By Dave Shellenbarger, Woodlake and Scotty Wood, West Bay

**IT'S VERY LIKELY** that someone in your family, and in your friends' families, are planning or paying for college. Our oldest grandchild started college this year and, with six more expected to attend in coming years, we are paying attention and trying to be informed about colleges and choices today. It seems that most every young person we know is expected to go to college, and that there is something "wrong" if they delay college or choose another path. At the same time, the costs of attending college have increased sharply. Between 1980 and 2014, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 120% while college tuition and other costs have increased by 260% - that's more than twice the increase in the national cost of living.

A month or so ago, my West Bay friend, Scotty Wood, sent me a white paper he had written to summarize his observations about the various trends and influences that have increased the costs of college. His paper increased my interest so I did some research of my own and, using information from Scotty's paper as well, I have summarized factors influencing higher education and related costs. Scotty and his contributors also offered some solutions to reduce costs, so I'll examine those as we walk through the current financial realities of college and higher education.

If college costs more, is it worth more today? One metric for valuing college is to compare college grad earnings today to grad earnings in the past. In 1980, the average starting salary for a college graduate was \$51,047 in 2018 dollars. In 2012, this metric had decreased to \$47,823, again in inflation-adjusted dollars, while in 2018, the average salary had increased somewhat to \$50,004. So no real increase in earnings for graduates in that 32-year period, though that 2018 college degrees cost considerably more than a degree earned in 1980. But earnings are only one measure - educational achievement is important also.

Comparing educational achievement is subjective, but the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) created a baseline to attempt a metric through a study of higher education in 17 developed countries - caution, this report was released in 2012. OECD reports that Americans under the age of 35 with a college degree performed below their peers in 14 other countries in practical math skills, below six other countries in reading skills, and below 13 other countries in the ability to solve problems using digital technology. Even if this report is half wrong, the results are not encouraging.

Further, college in America costs roughly twice what higher education costs in other developed countries (OECD *2018 Education at a Glance*). Wood, in his white paper, suggests some reasons for these high costs. Of the approximate annual cost of \$30,000 per student, college staff and



faculty consume \$23,000 of the total, more than twice what Finland, Sweden and Germany spend on these core costs. In addition, we spend just under \$3,400 per student on campus "amenities" including non-academic activities and athletics, more than three times the average of other developed countries. Significantly, state legislatures have reduced college spending per student for the last three decades, with cuts particularly sharp during the 2008-10 financial crisis. Those funding cuts have not been restored, and universities have not responded with operating cost reductions but rather have simply increased tuitions.

The dramatic increase in the cost of a college education has placed tremendous pressure on families to pay. The average family cost per student for a year of college is \$26-\$30,000, depending on the reporting source. Contributions from family savings vary, but on the average, parents borrow 10% of the cost each year, while the student through the federal loan program borrows an average of 14% of annual costs. Some 57% of families rely on some contribution from scholarships.

Sallie Mae (SLM Corporation, originally the federally chartered Student Loan Marketing Association and now a public company) reports that the average student debt for undergrad and graduate students is \$37,000, with an average monthly payment of \$357 on a typical repayment contract. Student debt has increased 110% in the last ten years to reach an astounding \$1.4 trillion at the end of the first quarter of 2019 - a tremendous burden on a significant percentage of our youngest adults.

Wood's white paper research gathered input from a finance professor at a major college, a trustee of a private college, a retired insurance company executive, an engineer and a

*continued on page 14*



# The Lummis Team

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**OAK KNOLL**



27180 Oak Knoll Dr.

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## Why Are College Costs So High? *continued from page 11*

successful non-college-grad woman who broke the “glass ceiling” in her career for a major national company. This diverse group of individuals did some brainstorming to develop ideas for attacking the high costs of college – it’s likely you won’t find these to be “slam dunk” proposals, but their ideas may provoke your thinking about this complicated topic. Their suggestions:

- Focus on the basic mission of academic achievement and emphasize applied science, while deemphasizing the “games” that elite colleges practice to maximize their public image. Budgets in non-academic areas should be cut first, including college sports.
- Expand the use of online courses, where elite professors can reach much larger audiences at significantly lower cost.
- Plan budget increases at or below the CPI to eliminate “cost creep” and to focus on classroom and degree value.
- Modify the current federal student loan program to require that colleges use their endowments to pay operating costs and to reduce tuition; hold schools accountable to pay 20% of a student’s debt if the student fails to graduate.
- Create a graduation academic achievement test to measure educational achievement prior to receiving a degree.
- Change college comparison standards (e.g. – *US News and World Report College Rankings*) from the current measure of the quantity of professors’ published research

to the more useful measure of graduation rates, career placement results and graduate earnings compared to norms for each area of study.

- Establish a “return on investment” measure for tenured faculty with a related code of conduct to seek unbiased instruction and sanctions for violations.
- Publish annual institutional “report cards” to include tuition history, graduation rates and test results, and other student achievement benchmarks.
- Adopt upper thresholds for college endowments with a tax on surplus endowments; use the tax revenue to reduce the costs of the national student loan program.
- Combine high school college counseling with alternate career information programs to encourage objective career considerations.
- Educate the public about the benefits of alternatives to college education to reduce the stigma attached to not attending college and to avoid unnecessary student debt when poorly qualified students are enrolled but fail to prosper.

A final observation is the fact that US college enrollment is declining in the United States, with an enrollment decrease of 1.8% in 2018 and a decrease of 1.7% in 2019. Declining enrollment with a recent history of accelerating costs in a diverse and segmented industry creates complex management challenges – it is likely that higher education will draw increased public increased scrutiny in coming years.

## BALD EAGLE REPORT

*James Unland, Wild Pines*

**OUR ADULT BALD EAGLES** returned to Spring Creek looking healthy. They refurbished their nest, mated and sat on eggs beginning in mid-November. Two babies hatched during Christmas week.

Having filmed and photographed this pair of eagles for eight years, this year I’ve noticed changes in the behavior of the adult eagles. First, they reconstructed their nest to be even more dramatically “bowl-shaped” than in previous years, effectively keeping their babies quite low in the nest and out of sight as long as possible, even though at three weeks old their heads were periodically visible.

The second change in the adult eagles’ behavior is that they have spent more time together in or quite near the nest as if in a “defensive” position. Because my cameras record sound, there is no question that the more defensive, unsettled behavior of our adult eagles is related to increased noise, especially from the nearby US-41 traffic. Note that our eagles are quite used to golfers, golf carts and even routine golf course maintenance vehicles.

“Disturbed” bald eagles can certainly abandon their nest but, in my experience, do not abandon their babies. I believe our eagles will persevere this season. Hopefully,



*Mother eagle vigilantly guards her babies*

both baby eagles will live.

The good news is that the Bonita Bay Community Association’s Board recently voted unanimously to set a process in motion to address the noise problem from US- 41, a positive development for both eagles and humans!



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# Curious Photographer

By Maryle Barbé, Spring Ridge

*What small gesture from a stranger made an impact on your life?*



**Warren Haeberle**  
**THE SANCTUARY**

My gesture isn't from a person, but an animal. I go fishing near our home in Bonita Bay and every time I do, there is a strange bird that comes and stands very close to me so I give him minnows to eat! This has made fishing much more fun as my strange bird is always waiting for a hand out!



**Denise Haeberle**  
**THE SANCTUARY**

I was a nurse for 17 years. One day a man came into the hospital with arm pain he fell asleep. Two years later he came back to tell me he how much it meant to him and I was reminded how important the human touch is.



**Roger Talbot**  
**TAVIRA**

During Mardi Gras, the King of the Carnival gave me the first doubloon, which is a French coin, as I was a Court Jester.



**Elaine Landau**  
**HORIZONS**

I spend off season in Manhattan and I am grateful to strangers who offer me a seat on the subway even though it may not be crowded. People think that New Yorkers are unfriendly but just the opposite is true!

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# BONITA BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2020

By Staff Writer

**ALL FIVE MEMBERS** of the Board were present: President – Hank Gempeler; Vice President – Joe Calabrese; Secretary – Chris Corrie; Treasurer – Kim Sharan and Director – Rod McKenzie. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

## Old Business

Assistant Director of Community Maintenance Wilson Cypher indicated that three bids were received for the pickleball project. US Tennis, located in Naples, was deemed the best choice. The work will include: repairs to the sub-surface of courts, cushioning of the surface with gel, 12-foot-high Enoise panels, LED lights, landscaping, irrigation and miscellaneous expenses. The total estimated cost is \$324,700. (This does not include \$42,000 which has already been spent on pickleball to date.) The project time line is four to five months. Cypher recommended that the construction should begin as soon as possible because of weather issues. The former President of the Pickleball Club, Sue Sorlien, indicated that the Pickleball Club would donate \$50,000 to the project when the construction is completed. Chris Corrie emphasized that there would not be any “special consideration” to the Pickleball Club because of the donation.

A motion was made to approve the expenditure and was carried by a unanimous vote.

## Committee Reports

*General Manager* – Robin Leete reported she will proceed in gathering bids for the Bocce restrooms to be presented to the Board for the February Board meeting.

*President* – Hank Gempeler reminded all to vote for the Community By-Law changes – which include increasing the Board from 5 members to 7 members, term limits, anti-harassment policy and other important measures. He also encouraged all to sign up for electronic voting because of the ease of casting your vote and its cost efficiency.

## Board Discussion

*Infrastructure Committee* recommended the approval of 15 crosswalks. Motion was unanimously approved. A question was raised about noise barriers for properties located adjacent to 41. The Infrastructure Committee will take readings of the noise and look into options.

*Sand Project* – Director Chris Corrie presented an update on the sand project at the Beach Park and indicated that City will issue a “Minor Permit” after it is determined how the trucks will enter and leave the parking lot, the manner in which the sand will be unloaded and the hours of operation. The sand nourishment process will take two weeks to complete. Additionally, a mechanical raking system to remove shells was approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

*Lakes Committee* reported that the cane toad issue continues to involve the cooperation of the Community and Bonita Bay Club to combat the invasion.

*Nominating Committee* indicated that there are two openings on the Board – Hank Gempeler is stepping down and Kim Sharon is leaving the Board effective immediately. The committee reported that there presently are three candidates for the open positions.

## Non-Agenda Public Comments

Motorists are continually exceeding speed limit of 30 mph and people who do not live in Bonita Bay are using the beach and other facilities. It was suggested that the Risk Committee would look into both issues.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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The practice is run as a partnership. Together Dr. and Mrs. Golumbic (Lizzie) take the time needed to get to know their patients. They listen to their patients' concerns. Their caring approach, together with their years of experience and good clinical judgments set them apart in their field.

Burt and Lizzie have met so many lovely residents of Bonita Bay. It is so wonderful to have many of them as “our dental family of patients.”

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# Want to open your Bonita Bay home to

**OUR RESCUE ORGANIZATION**, "Find A Home Give A Home", is dedicated to helping homeless shelter dogs and abandoned street cats. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and our only source of funds to help with veterinarian bills, training and care is donations we get from the public. All our pets are fully vetted and microchipped and we are always in need of volunteers and foster parents. If you would like to help, please contact 239-281-0739 or email us at [pets@findahomegiveahome.com](mailto:pets@findahomegiveahome.com). You can also visit our Facebook page Find A Home Give A Home Pet rescue or online at [www.findahomegiveahome.com](http://www.findahomegiveahome.com).



### Fiona and Felix

Brother and sister. Chihuahuas mixed with terrier. Three months old and just adorable. Remember puppies are a lot of work but so much fun. We would love for them to go together or go with another dog.



### Fleur

Fleur is so sweet. She was a stray and was brought to the shelter with her puppies. Would make a great little pet. Fleur loves people and wants to be your friend. She has the body of Dachshund and a Chihuahua. One year old and 16 lbs.



### Ashley

One of the sweetest dogs you have ever met is waiting for her FurEver Home. We rescued Ashley from Miami in early September. She was listed as scared, afraid of the leash, lack of appetite. In less than two weeks, she has become much calmer, so sweet, great with cats. LOVES walks and is house trained. A year old and 28 lbs.



### Izzie

Last October we pulled an injured female puppy mixed breed from a shelter. After helping her recover, Izzie is now up for adoption. Today Izzie is doing what puppies should be doing – She enjoys life and playing either with her toys or with other dogs. Everyone she meets loves her. She is so gentle. Izzie is 8 months old now and is 32 lbs. She would be great as a second dog.



### Princess

Princess is young and will need some exercise. She is great at the dog park and loves to play. She is a year-and-half old and 32 lbs. She is shy at first but great after she warms up to you.



# a new friend this year?



## Mandy

Love a little cat with a big heart. Mandy is cute and so lovable!! One year old and warms up to people after a few moments.



## Gina and Rudy

Gina and Rudy are siblings and five months old. Cute together and would love to stay together. Beautiful coat and markings. It is so great to adopt a pair!!!



## Blue and Vickie

They are absolutely gorgeous and so cute together. They are five months old. They will need to stay as a pair. All very playful.

## TIPS FOR ADOPTING A PET

If you are considering adopting a new friend from a shelter, make sure you ask yourself a few questions first.

**Am I ready to make a commitment for the pet's lifetime?** What will your life be like in five to ten years? Having a pet in your house is a serious commitment. It is like having a toddler who never grows up. Moving or getting a divorce is not an excuse to give away your pet. It is amazing how many pets end up in a shelter after people decide to move. Bringing a pet to a shelter seems like the easy way out.

We have heard all the excuses in the book, but once in a while we talk to someone who will sleep in their car so their pet doesn't end up in a shelter. We are proud that over the years, our organization – Findahomegiveahome – has worked to help people going through a difficult time to keep their pets. Of course, there are moments in life when events get out of control, such as sickness or death, and in those cases, it is understandable that a dog or cat may have to be rehoused. We also believe that everyone has moments of despair and may feel the need to speak to someone to get advice. That is one of our strengths.

**Will you be adopting a pet by yourself or with someone else?** When you make a commitment, it should be yours. How many of us as kids asked our parents for a dog and swore we would take care of it? We all know that parents are usually the ones left with the dog when the kids move out of the house. If you have trouble taking care of yourself, consider the burden a pet will place on you and make sure you are healthy enough to commit for the long term. Giving a pet as a gift is not a good idea, because it generally does not end well for the animal.

**How much time can I dedicate to my new pet each day?** That is a very important question. There are some great ways to exercise your pet, such as going to the dog park, doggie day care and of course walking in the neighborhood is terrific (for both you and

the dog!). And you need to set aside time to give your pet one-on-one attention – the more social your pet is the more enjoyable it will be for you.

**Can I afford the expenses if something happens to my pet?** Veterinarians are great but can be expensive. There are many ways to keep costs reasonable. Some pet stores have vaccination days once a month but in general, between vet bills and food, having a pet is expensive. You can also purchase insurance. In my house we have three dogs and have a policy for each so if something happens, it will not be as big an out-of-pocket expense. (We pay \$110 a month for the three of them.)

**Exercise, discipline and love** are the principles of a happy life with your pet. We believe there is a pet for everyone if only we could save them all.

We wanted to thank *Bay Watch News* for letting us share some of our adoptable pets. We hope to read some of your comments via email at [pets@findahomegiveahome.com](mailto:pets@findahomegiveahome.com).

We work very hard to make a difference in the lives of pets who need a second chance. Being a shelter dog or cat is a very stressful experience and the look in their eyes when they walk out of the shelter for that "Freedom Walk" is unbelievable. We believe dogs do feel they are saved when they get chosen for adoption.

We just want to share with you some of the points which will make your choice and your life with your new friend more enjoyable. It is like planning a life together. They will give you unconditional LOVE, you just need to do your part and make sure your new companion gets everything they need to be balanced. Shelter dogs didn't get treated the right way the first time around and you can make a difference.

All that being said, having a pet in your life can be a most rewarding experience.

*by Isabelle Wells, FindaHomeGiveaHome Pet Rescue*



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# The Gala of the Royal Horses

By BWN Staff Writer

**THE GALA OF THE ROYAL HORSES**, featuring performances by the Lipizzaner Stallions, was held mid-January at Florida Everglades Equestrian Center in Bonita Springs.

The Gala is the brainchild of riding master Rene Gassner, whose family spans seven generations of top-class equestrians. The show originated at the world-famous riding schools in Vienna and Spain and has toured the globe, but this was its first time in the United States.

The gala featured the famous Lipizzaner Horses, whose history dates from 1572 when Europe was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Archduke Charles II sent a nobleman to Spain to purchase Andalusian breeding stock for the Austrian Royal Court and the horses were taken to a town called Lipizza (in modern day Slovenia) and were bred with descendants of horses used in Roman chariots. Many of the foals were sent to Vienna riding schools to be trained to entertain nobility and royalty.

Here in Bonita Springs, the horses showcased their advanced dressage moves, called “airs above the ground,” made famous by the breed and which are awe inspiring to watch. The Lipizzaners have sturdy bodies, brilliant action, intelligence and a docile disposition. An interesting fact is that they are born black and turn white between ages of 6 and 10 years old. Other horses that appeared in the show were Arabians, Friesians and Quarter Horses.

*(Editor's Note: Check out their website for future scheduling <http://www.galaoftheroyalhorses.com/schedule>.)*

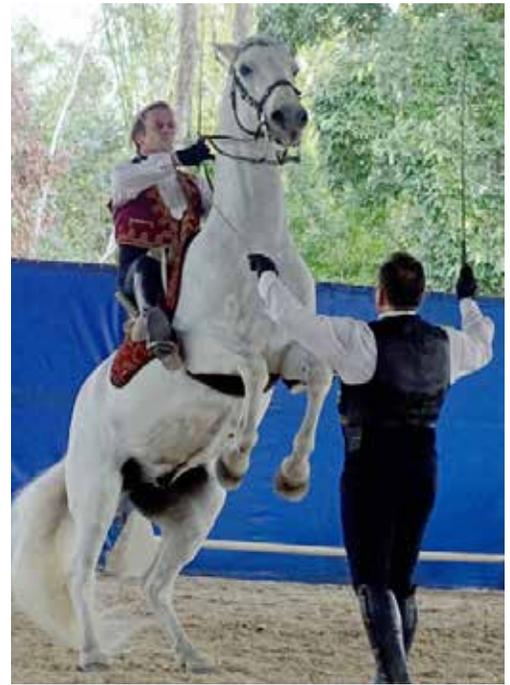
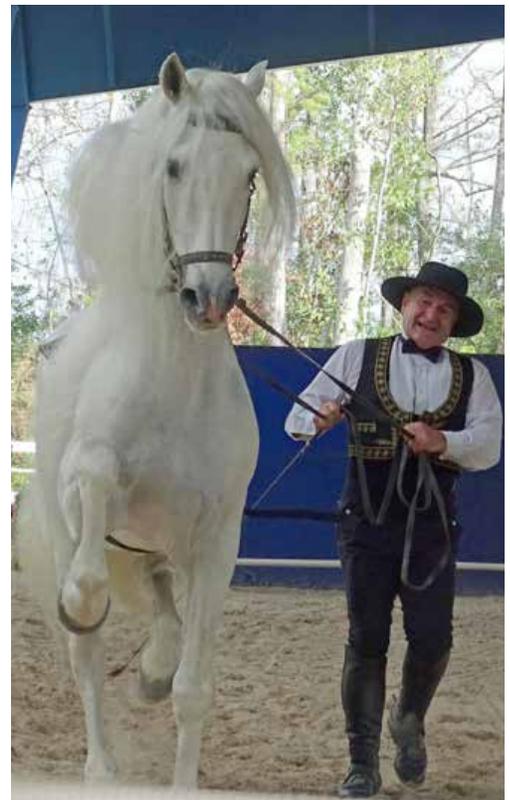


Photo credits: Maryle Barbé

*Lipizzaner leaping*



*Couple riding a Lipizzaner*



*Lipizzaner prancing*



# A Fight Against Disease

By Dave Rutstein, Deerwood

**DO YOU REMEMBER** a little bird on TV singing the jingle, “Look sharp! Feel sharp! Be sharp! How’re you fixed for blades? Gillette Blue Blades, I mean?” If so, does the image of the Gillette Friday Night Fights (boxing) come to mind?

Now, for a growing group of Bonita Bay residents, boxing means something entirely different -- although that activity makes them look, feel and be sharper. They are participants in a boxing program in the Lifestyle Center designed to reverse, reduce and delay the symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease.



The disease itself is challenging. It causes deterioration of motor skills, balance, speech and sensory functions. But vigorous exercise helps. The “Bonita Bay Boxers” can thank Scott Newman, a former Golden Gloves boxer in Indianapolis, for his inspiration. When he was diagnosed with Parkinson’s about 20 years ago, he turned back to boxing as a diversion. Surprisingly, he noticed improvements in his range of motion, flexibility, posture and gait. Ultimately, he converted his discoveries into a successful non-profit organization, Rock Steady Boxing, now being taught in more than 800 locations around the world. In parallel, recent scientific studies at respected medical institutions (including the Cleveland Clinic) have confirmed the program’s effectiveness.

How does boxing relate to Parkinson’s? Those who have been through the program would tell you that there are direct correlations. Each exercise works on a different symptom:

- The instructors begin each session with a long series of intense stretching exercises designed to alleviate the inevitable stiffness associated with this disease.
- Then the footwork begins. The members mimic the actions of boxers which enhances their balance and agility.
- When the participants don their boxing gloves, they begin to “punch” to overcome and steady their tremors.
- Then when actual “sparring” begins, they work on increased hand-eye coordination and improved reaction time. They must follow commands such as “right-left-jab-cross-uppercut” thereby forcing the brain to initiate each movement.
- Taken together, these exercises contribute to building stronger cores and extremities resulting in improved gait.
- And for those who have lost the volume of their voices (“soft voice syndrome”), the trainers engage in a “shouting” protocol to activate that function.

Our instructor Nick Abram agrees: “This is intense exercise combined with professional boxing techniques. Everything

that boxing teaches, Parkinson’s takes away: balance/ agility/ quick movements/ core strength and conditioning. And for us, it’s a non-contact sport. The opponent is the disease.”

For many, the scientific theories behind these techniques work in practice. The movements in boxing generate renewed growth of brain cells damaged by disease. The high intensity work becomes “neuro-protective”, enhancing the re-growth of brain neurons. But it is not easy. The program requires a real commitment. One participant said, “I attend three times a week. It’s tiring. But whenever I hesitate to go, I

remind myself how much progress I have made and how much better I feel.”

The group dynamic works. Fitness Director Tammy Mugavero has been excited about the program from Day One (about five years ago): “We have built a magical sense of community which both inspires the participants and the instructors. I love to watch their smiles as they help each other through the intense and challenging exercises.” Listen to Nick Abram’s enthusiasm: “I can’t wait to enter the training room to share their experience. These folks have received a difficult diagnosis. Yet when they come through that door there is laughter and fun. They are shrinking their disease and making friendships along the way. We show them how much they can do. It’s an uplifting experience for them and for me.”

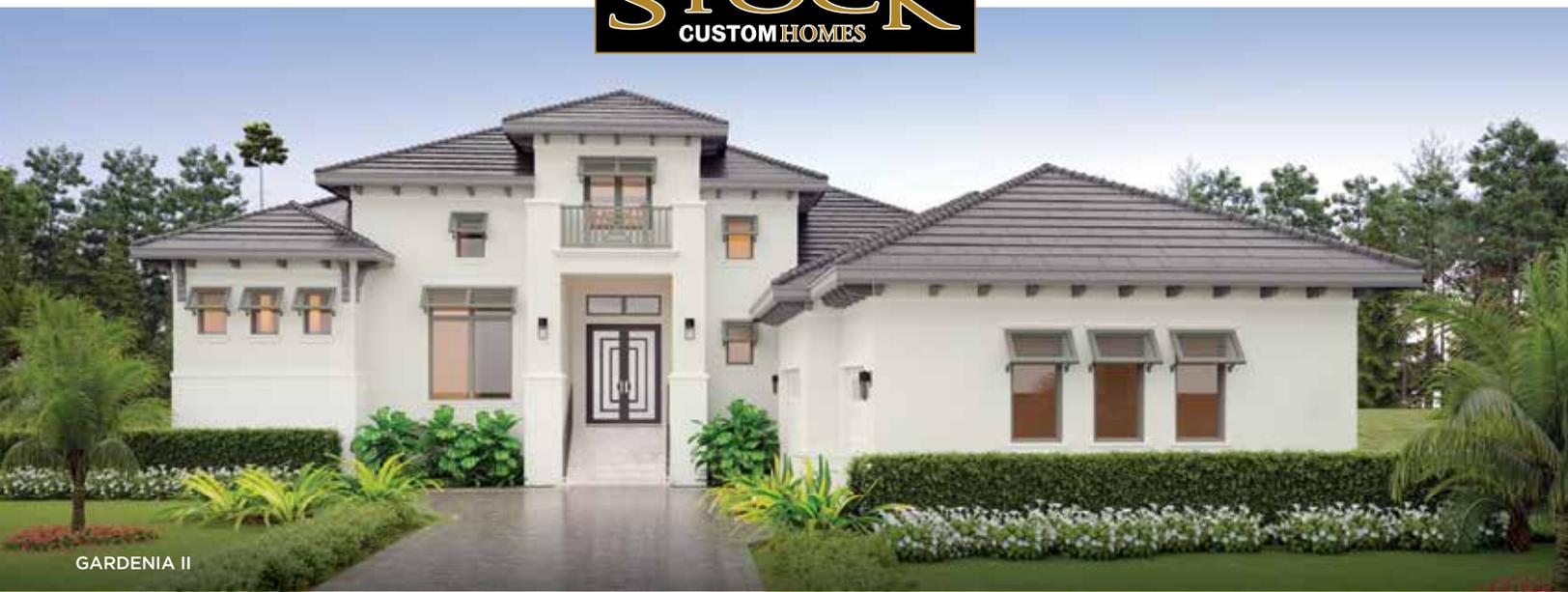
Our community provides the participants a unique advantage. One member told us, “I feel lucky to be at Bonita Bay. I need physical therapy, speech therapy and boxing. During the summer, I spent so much time running around Minneapolis to find all of these services. Here, I go to the boxing class and when I finish, I just get on the elevator for the other two disciplines. It’s all integrated. I don’t think that I could do that at any other club in the country.”

This is a timely subject. Each year 60,000 people receive their initial diagnosis of Parkinson’s. Florida is among the states with the highest number of cases. And, the incidence of Parkinson’s is increasing every year. Again, Tammy Mugavero: “The Bonita Bay Parkinson’s Boxing Class carries forward our original concept of a Lifestyle Center. Our intention was to make wellness our driving principle. It’s working. We have been rated among the top 10 of America’s Healthiest Clubs. With boxing as an important element of our **Wellness And Vitality Enrichment (WAVE)** program, we are able to serve our members who need a bit of extra help and attention. We take pride in that.”

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# The Great Escape: Where to Go When You

**IT'S THE DEAD OF WINTER** elsewhere, but here in Bonita Bay, the sun is shining and the grass is green. That makes it the perfect time for guests to visit.

But sometimes, it's too perfect.

Maybe it's never happened to you, but there might be a time when your guests love being here just a tad too much. After all, not everyone follows the Ben Franklin wisdom of "Fish and visitors stink after three days."

Yes, we love our visitors and want them to have a great time here. And if it's your friends and family, you certainly don't want them to feel like you're counting the days until they depart.

But sometimes, we need a vacation from the vacationers.

So where do you go for a few hours when you need alone time?

Sure, you could play your favorite sport or take a long, long walk along our 12 miles of paved paths.

Or, you could elbow your way into a seat at Starbucks or Panera, plunking down several bucks each time for a coffee or pastry. But that adds up fast, both in dollars and calories.

If you just need some quiet time to read, work or think—or you just need to give your guests some space – here's the list of my four favorite places to go when you need to hide. Two are biking distance from anywhere within Bonita Bay, and the others are just minutes away.

## 1. Estero Bay Park Pavilion

If you never travel over the hill to the high-rise side of Bonita Bay, it's time to expand your horizons.

Estero Bay Park is the 13-acre nature preserve nestled between the towers of Tavira and Azure. It's not only a great location for a walk, down the mangrove-lined boardwalk or a stroll through the butterfly gardens, but it's where you'll find hiding place #1: the pavilion.

This high-ceiling, screened-in enclosure is often empty during the day, although it is used for community classes on occasion. Walk in and make yourself at home.

It's a great place to sit and read the paper or respond to your email (you'll find power outlets if you need a charge.) You can pick up Hotwire Wi-Fi there, too.

If the pavilion's in use (primarily on Thursday mornings), you'll find picnic tables nearby you can employ instead. Most are under large shady trees. As an added bonus, the pavilion also has restrooms—a welcome addition if you're escaping for more than a few hours, or if your 13-year-old nephew wouldn't budge from the bathroom mirror this morning.



## 2. Riverwalk Park Bocce Gazebo

Over on the other side of our neighborhood, travel down Riverwalk Way and enter the park. Follow the path to the left of the pickleballers and escape to another unique place: the bocce gazebo.

Even if you've never thrown a *bocce*, you'll find respite in this open-air covered area with a view of the Imperial River.

Much of the time, this space is empty, although it can fill when the local leagues are in play. Check the bulletin board at the gazebo for game times. You're welcome to watch the competitions, too (and most players I know love an audience).

Or, on the other side of the bocce gazebo are two facing benches, right on the river's bank. It's also a nice place to read, or listen to music with your headphones on.

Just remember to bring your bug spray, and you can while away the afternoon hoping your guests finally washed the dishes they left in the sink.

## 3. The Hub at the Bonita Springs Chamber

In the past, visitors new to Bonita Springs would stop at the Chamber office, two miles north from Bonita Bay on US 41. There, they'd stock up on maps, guides and even coupons from local restaurants and businesses.

But in recent years, as people find what they need online, the massive space dedicated to flyers, postcards and handouts was going to waste.

# Need to Get Away (for free)

By Darcy Eikenberg, Cracker Cove

Around the same time, Hurricane Irma hit, leaving the Chamber building with enough flood damage to relocate the staff for several months – and an opportunity to reimagine the space.

And so The Hub emerged.

The Hub is a new entry to our hangout scene, officially opening late last year. It's an open, drop-in space located at the Bonita Springs Chamber building, next to the newly rebuilt fire station. Turn right at Walgreens, make a left past the bank and you'll see signs for The Hub.

What most people don't yet know about The Hub is that it's free for anyone in our community to use.

Yes, anyone. That means you don't have to be working in a Chamber member company to walk in and take advantage of the café-style space.

You're also welcome to tell others to meet you there—it's great for conversations that you might have otherwise had crowded elbow-to-elbow at Starbucks.

Oh, and the coffee's free, too, thanks to an in-kind sponsorship with local supplier Right Turn Coffee.

Plus, small meeting rooms can be reserved. They're only partly enclosed—with glass windows and open ceiling lines—but they can provide just enough privacy if you should need to meet with your lawyer to strategize how best to evict Uncle Alex back to Minnetonka.

The Hub is open Monday-Friday during business hours, but this winter may be open at 8 a.m. for all you early birds. Call the Chamber at 239.992.2943 to confirm hours.

(Full disclosure—I serve on the board of the Chamber and personally invite you to try out The Hub.)

## 4. The Bonita Springs Library

It might feel nerdy to go hide in the library.

But our brand spanning new book nook provides lots of inviting spaces for you to disappear in, both inside and outside.

Less than four miles away from Bonita Bay, the library is located off Old 41 on Reynolds Street, within walking distance of the public Riverside Park. Parking is ample; the staff friendly.

Climb the stairs (or take the elevator) to the second floor where the collections are. If you'd like to work at a table, plop down at one of the many located all around the floor, most with sunny window views. If you'd like a softer seat, the newspaper and magazine section is the place to be.

My favorite parts of the architecture are the small outdoor verandas. As I'm writing this, there's no permanent outdoor

seating, but I've snuck a plastic chair from an indoor table outside on a pleasant day. As long as you return it when you leave, I'm not sure anyone will mind.

Plus, you don't need a library card to use the building. (But why not get one if you don't have one yet? It's easy to get, even if you only rent, work or go to school in Lee County, and with your card, you can access e-books and audiobooks, too.)

The library's Monday-Saturday hours can be a little wonky, opening at 9 a.m. some days, 10 a.m. others and not until noon on Tuesdays. But they're open until 8 p.m. a few nights, too. I've given up trying to remember and instead put their number in my phone: 239.533.4860.

Maybe your guests are awesome, and you love spending every minute with them. But for those times when you need a change of scene, try these four hiding places—and let me know when you discover others.

*When she's not in hiding, Darcy Eikenberg coaches leaders and high performing teams so that they're ready for career and business change, no matter what the future holds. She also writes regularly at RedCapeRevolution.com, speaks at events around the country and hosts the Bonita Business Podcast.*



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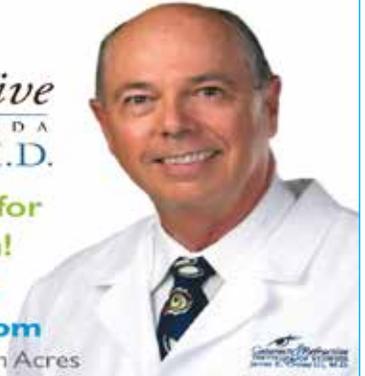
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# "The Girls of Summer"

By BWN Staff Writer

“NANA! GRANDPA BOB! Come watch my new show” was a common request from 7-year old Tori Titmas to her Bonita Bay grandparents, Bob and Jackie Titmas, Cranbrook. Spending each Easter break at her grandparents’ Bonita Springs home, Tori would stage poolside, beachside, parking-lot-side shows for the entire family. After spending a day at Fort Myers Beach, Tori and her sister would have acted in three separate performances of an original piece that Tori had written and cast her sister, Cali, as the co-star. She recalls the attention and support from each audience member, especially her grandparents’ friends, who approvingly watched while eating their lunches at the picnic tables under the gazebo.

After a good show, Tori and grandpa Bob would ride bikes to Dairy Queen for a celebratory treat. It was in those small yet poignant moments of encouragement and love that Jackie, Bob and the residents of Bonita Bay helped foster Tori’s affinity for the Arts. Fast forward 20 years and Tori has written, starred in and cast her sister, yet again, as co-star in her biggest project yet.

On February 29, at the Bonita Bay Club, Tori Titmas will be premiering her first indie feature film, “The Girls of Summer,” directed by Oscar-nominated John Hancock (“Bang the Drum Slowly”). The event will include the Florida premiere of “The Girls of Summer,” followed by a Q&A led by Tori, lead actress and screenwriter. The discussion will cover the numerous moving parts that go into making an independent feature film, the evolution of a script from page to screen and Tori’s personal experience collaborating with an Oscar-nominated director.

Many years after Tori’s beachside performances, she moved to Chicago and met John Hancock at The Second City. Hancock was a professor and Titmas was an alum of The Second City Conservatory. Many of Hancock’s students cast her in their class exercises and short films; after watching Titmas perform, Hancock asked her to be the lead actress in his next film. At this point, Hancock did not have a script written but rather the vision of a film about an all-female band in the Midwest. Hancock had a “feeling Tori could write the script herself,” and encouraged her to give it a try. A year-long mentorship and the collaboration of a lifetime was the result. Titmas spent time with Hancock and his wife Dorothy Tristan -- a screenwriter, model and actress at their home, learning about Old Hollywood, secrets of directing, casting, producing, etc. Hancock is known for giving Robert DeNiro, Melissa Etheridge and Nick Nolte their big breaks.

Titmas and Hancock’s unique partnership between generations impacted the dynamics of the rest of the seasoned crew working



alongside college undergrads. Titmas and Hancock hosted multiple casting sessions, watched movies for inspiration, met with investors, scouted locations, acquired sponsored musical equipment and recorded original songs for the soundtrack. Titmas even learned to play the drums. With each hiccup that arose during production, Hancock and Titmas kept the film’s central theme of “keep calm, carry on” as their guiding light. With that said, Titmas was rewriting scenes throughout the 40-day shoot and many of the lines were ad-libbed on set!

The premise of how the film came together parallels the film’s story in that Tori wanted to take her loved ones along with her as she pursued her dream. The plot of “The Girls of Summer” has Tori’s character form a family-band; in real-life, Tori cast her sister, uncle and grandparents in the film, as well as her mother, who is an artist, as art director. A true family affair!

Titmas and Hancock hope to release the “The Girls of Summer” domestically and internationally in select theaters this summer. The film will also be available for streaming nationwide in August. To share stories on the silver-screen has always been a dream of Tori’s and she is grateful to be able to share that experience with her family and the supportive residents of Bonita Bay. With that said, fast forward from 20 years ago and Tori is still shouting, “Grandpa Bob! Nana! Come watch!”

*(Editor’s Note: The film “The Girls of Summer” will be shown on February 29 at Bonita Bay Club in the Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Please call Club Concierge at 239- 495-0200 for reservations. For more information on Tori and the film, go to: [www.torititmas.com](http://www.torititmas.com) or [www.thegirlsofsummervmovie.com](http://www.thegirlsofsummervmovie.com).)*

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# Bonita Bay Uncorked

## VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A WINE GODDESS

By Lana Novak, Certified Sommelier, Estancia

**NOTHING IS AS ELEGANT** as a woman sipping wine from a long-stemmed glass on Valentine's Day. Women and wine just go together! Especially if you are drinking a really great wine to celebrate the occasion.

While much of the wine industry is dominated by men, many of the top wines are crafted by legendary women winemakers. Valentine's Day is a perfect day to wow your true love with a terrific wine made by an inspirational female winemaker.

Their stories are great. They tell of hardships, ups and downs and perseverance. There are so many respected women that I call goddesses of California winemaking, I don't know where to begin.

Let's start with the godmother of American wine Ann Noble, who for 28 years taught thousands of enology students at UC Davis in California. She created the famous aroma wine wheel. Dr. Noble's protégés became some of the most influential people in the business.

The legendary Helen Turley has won winemaker of the year and numerous other awards. It is said that Helen did for Napa wines what Robert Parker did for Bordeaux. Turley began by working in the lab for Robert Mondavi and soon afterwards at Chappellet. She was inaugural winemaker at Peter Michael, and at one time simultaneously made wine for Martinelli, Bryant Family, Pahlmeyer, La Jota and Colgin, all cult wineries! Her own label Marcassin is impossible to obtain, but what a Valentine gift for your loved one if you could get your hands on one!

In 1979, Dr. Noble's lab assistant was a chef named Heidi Petersen. She became an icon in the business, often called "the first lady of wine". Her client list included wineries like Franciscan, Silver Oak, Dalla Valle, Grace Family, Vineyard 29, Lamborn and the world-famous Screaming Eagle. Her own wine is the highly sought-after La Sirena. She married Bo Barret of Chateau Montelena (Bottle Shock) fame. Now there's a talented couple!

After getting rave reviews for her work at Staglin and Freemark Abbey, UC grad Cathy Corison began making wine under the Corison name and continued for 30 years. Initially, she was told not to go to Napa because a woman would never get a job there. Thank you for not listening, Cathy!

Another lab assistant to Ann was Mia Klein, who was later mentored by both Cathy Corison and Heidi Barrett. Araujo, Spottswood and Viader were some of the prestigious brands she worked for until she launched her own label Selene. Currently she is also making wine for some big hitters in Napa like Amuse Bouche, Lamborn and Paradigm.



Helen Keplinger wrote her master's thesis with Noble's help in 2000 and went on to be Heidi Peterson's assistant at Paradigm. Years later she rejoined Heidi at the Kenzo Estate and is now making incredible Rhone-style wine under her namesake.

We can't omit Merry Edwards, whose Pinot Noirs and Sauvignon Blancs are legendary. She worked for Matanzas Creek and Villa Mount Eden.

The list of students Ann Noble mentored is endless: Sally Johnson still creates the velvety Merlot at Pride Mountain Vineyards; Celia Welch makes the expensive, hard-to-find Corra Napa Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as the Lindstrom and Scarecrow wines.

Other wine divas include Delia Viader, the dynamo behind Viader and DARE labels; Margo Van Staaveren, the master blender for 37 years at Chateau St. Jean; Kathryn Hall, the force behind Hall and Walt (her maiden name) label, Milla Handley and Virginia Lambrix.

Help, I feel like I'm at the Academy Awards and I haven't finished the list, but the music is playing! These women and so many more paved the way for a new generation of winemakers.

I was so inspired, I asked my husband if it was too late for me to become a winemaker. He said, "I think that ship has sailed and besides there are no good wine grapes in Bonita Bay!"

In my next life, I had planned to come back as a rock star, or time-share developer or maybe a televangelist, but now I think I just want to be a great winemaker!

Surprise your sweetheart on Valentine's Day with a bottle made by a grape diva. Happy Valentine's Day!



# Preserving the Pioneer Spirit

**IT'S ALWAYS A CHALLENGE** to trace the thread of history from Bonita Springs' earliest pioneers to their descendants today. But in the case of the McSwain family, the Historical Society didn't have to go searching. Recently, we were contacted by Germaine McSwain, daughter-in-law of Ansel McSwain. Ansel was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth McSwain, pioneers who built their permanent homestead in Bonita Springs (then called Survey) in 1915.

Germaine married Charles, the eldest of Ansel's two sons. Although she now lives in South Carolina, Germaine had heard about the restoration of the McSwain Home from her daughter Maria, who makes her home in Naples. Germaine decided it was time to see for herself what had become of the old house.

We spent an afternoon with Germaine, her daughter Maria and Charles' cousin, Barbara Grimm, paging through old photos that brought back the time Bonita Springs began to shed its bucolic past and take on a much more prosperous future.

## A Born Entrepreneur

Ansel's parents made the journey from Mississippi to Bonita Springs in 1901, hearing of this area's untapped potential. Joseph and Elizabeth lived off the land, raised eight children and had time for little else. But their son Ansel was destined for much more. Ansel was determined to change the subsistence living he was born into—and he did.

Ansel married Anna Lee Williams, who came from another founding family. Apart from fishing or picking oranges, Bonita Springs held few jobs for an aspiring young man. Ansel realized that if there was to be a future in Southwest Florida, he would have to make it for himself.

Ansel found work wherever he could. According to a July 9, 2009 article in *Florida Weekly*, he was the area's first and only Pony Express rider, carrying mail from Bonita Springs to Naples in the morning, and making the return trip each night.

In 1927, at age 20, Ansel was elected Bonita Springs' first mayor by a

single vote, 33-32. Later that year, when the Orange Blossom Special passenger train made its inaugural stop at the Bonita Springs Depot, Ansel hosted Florida Governor John Martin and other dignitaries. Optimism was high, but the Great Depression hit Bonita Springs harder than most. Bankrupted by the downturn, the city was forced to resign its charter and would not officially become a city again until 1999.

In 1939, Ansel moved south, seeking better opportunities in Naples. Soon afterward, Ansel opened a Sinclair gas station in Naples at the "Four Corners"—5th Avenue and Tamiami Trail.

"Ansel was a very ambitious man but humble at the same time," Germaine said of her father-in-law. As his success grew, Ansel sent money to his parents, whose hard work had never paid off in financial gain.

Ansel co-founded the Bank of Naples in 1949 and kept active in local affairs until he died in 1964 at the relatively young age of 67. Anna Lee lived another 30 years in Naples before her death in 1994.

As it turns out, the McSwain family has come full circle since patriarch Joseph staked his claim here more than a century ago. Ansel and his brother Gene chose to make their way in Naples, but when Ansel's son Charles landed a job with Duke Power Company in 1959, he and Germaine moved to North Carolina. Three decades later, their daughter Maria left the Carolinas and returned to Naples, where she has found much success as owner of an interior design firm. Thus it is that three generations later, Joseph's great great-granddaughter brought the family back to its Southwest Florida roots.

## Why the McSwain Home Matters

Walking into the home for the first time, Germaine says she could sense the McSwain family's pioneer spirit. "I admire their ambition, their work ethic and their tenacity to make it in Southwest Florida," she says.

Germaine feels strongly that historic buildings should be preserved—because she's seen first-hand what happens when they're not. Her parents, Carl and June Prasil, built the Sea Shell Motel in 1949, one of the first motels along Tamiami Trail in Naples. In 2019, the building was razed, its prime location more valuable as future retail development. Germaine says her mother's house on East Lake Drive near Cambier Park met a similar fate. With the buildings gone, there's no trace of her family left in Naples.

As for the McSwain Home, Germaine says she's glad the historical society chose to keep the family name associated with the property. "You can see the tremendous amount of work they did to preserve this house and create a landmark that keeps history going," she adds. Germaine wishes her husband Charles would have had the chance to see the home, but believes her words speak for him: "To all the volunteers, donors and businesses, I'm forever grateful."



*Holding a photograph of original homesteaders Joseph and Elizabeth McSwain are Maria McSwain Price (left), their great great-granddaughter, and Germaine McSwain, daughter-in-law of the elder McSwains' son Ansel.*



*This formal portrait of Ansel McSwain and his wife Anna Lee suggests that Ansel became a successful businessman at a young age.*



*In the 1920s, the McSwain Home (left) sat along Heitman Avenue next to the Wayside Inn. In 2005, the inn was torn down by a developer in a single day.*

*After six years of renovation, the McSwain Home is now open as a multi-purpose venue for meetings, events, concerts and history exhibits.*



### **A Six-Year Journey**

Built in 1915 along Heitman Avenue, later to become the Tamiami Trail, the McSwain Home stands today as the oldest remaining building on Old 41 Road in the historic downtown. In late 2011, when the wood frame house was gifted to the historical society by the Humphries—who had owned it since the 1970s—nearly 100 years of weather and wear had taken their toll.

Given the home’s deteriorated condition, its repair and renovation has literally been “from the ground up.” The first step was to raise the home and replace its crumbling wooden foundation with new concrete pilings. Work then proceeded to repair framing and flooring, restore the original wood siding, gut and refinish the interior, and install updated utilities and central air conditioning.

The roof’s ragged asphalt shingles were long overdue for replacement—a need made even more urgent by Hurricane Irma’s damage. A tin roof would be ideal, but far beyond the historical society’s means. Fortune turned in the society’s favor when two local companies—ABC Supply and Tri-Town Construction—donated the entire cost of materials and installation. These two firms are among many that have generously donated everything from electrical and air conditioning systems to the grading, brick pavers and pergola out front.

Over the past six years, construction hurdles and setbacks could have easily derailed the project, but the society persevered, collecting donations from every corner and receiving a major Historic Preservation Grant from the City of Bonita Springs.

Restoring the home has been a long journey indeed, one that took the kind of determination the McSwains brought to Bonita Springs a century ago—a can-do spirit that endures.

**Visit [www.bonitahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bonitahistoricalsociety.org) for a complete list of companies that helped restore the McSwain Home.**

*by Beverly LaLonde, Bonita Springs Historical Society*



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# Bridge Lesson

## INTERFERENCE

IN TODAY'S BRIDGE GAMES, one must be prepared for interference by the opponents. This article discusses two hands involving bidding interference at high levels. Sitting south, you pick up the following hand:

♠ —  
♥ J  
♦ AKQJ94  
♣ J109754

Your partner opens 1NT and your RHO overcalls 4♥. Are you and your partner prepared for this situation? Your hand is a very powerful playing hand, it has four losing tricks. The standard way to handle this is to bid 4NT. Your partner should understand this bid as takeout for the minors. If you had spades, you would bid them. Your partner bids 5♣. Partner opened 1NT missing diamond honors. You should assume east has something of value in their heart suit. Therefore, your partner probably has club honors. Bid 6♣. Here is the entire deal.

<b>Board 5</b>	♠ AJ84	
North Deals	♥ A6	
N-S Vul	♦ 1076	
	♣ AK86	
♠ KQ752	N	♠ 10963
♥ Q98	W	♥ K1075432
♦ 83	E	♦ 52
♣ Q32	S	♣ —
		♠ —
		♥ J
		♦ AKQJ94
		♣ J109754

Had north opened a minor instead of 1NT, with same 4♥ interference, then bid 5 of the minor. If you play negative doubles through 4♥, then a double would show four spades; otherwise it would be for penalty. If north had opened 1♠, double would be for the minors.

In our second example, you're sitting east, vulnerable verses not, and pick up the following hand:

♠ AJ  
♥ K54  
♦ AKQ9  
♣ AQ108

You open 2♣ planning to bid 2N after your partner's response. Partner bids 2♦, waiting, and north bids 4♠. You must switch to Plan B. Do you have a Plan B? The standard way to handle this situation is to double. This is a "do something intelligent" double. Partner should know you have a big balanced hand. West holds the following hand:

♠ —  
♥ AQ98  
♦ J86543  
♣ 432

This is a seven loser hand opposite a four loser, considering the vulnerable situation, west should bid 6♦. Here is the entire deal.

<b>Board 22</b>	♠ KQ1087642	
East Deals	♥ 3	
E-W Vul	♦ 7	
	♣ KJ6	
♠ —	N	♠ AJ
♥ AQ98	W	♥ K54
♦ J86543	E	♦ AKQ9
♣ 432	S	♣ AK108
		♠ 953
		♥ J10762
		♦ 102
		♣ 975

These examples illustrate the value of interference and the need to have a partnership agreement for dealing with interference. Several of the top players in our area were asked their opinion on the first hand. In all cases they stated PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT. There are two lessons in this story. One, interference is HUGE; two, talk to your partner before the situation arises at the table.

*By Sue Wilkening and Fred Scott.*





# Greetings from the Mayor!

By Mayor Peter Simmons, Riverwalk

**I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE** with you the progress being made to remove nitrogen from our Bonita Springs waterways through a creative and cost-effective solution.



In 2012, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requested that Bonita Springs reduce the total maximum daily load of nitrogen in its waterways to 0.74mg/L under what is referred to as the “Everglades West Coast Basin Management Action Plan.” This tasked the city to reduce the nitrogen levels along the Imperial River to more closely reflect those of pre-development and agriculture levels. The FDEP has projected a target reduction amount of 60,000 lbs. by the year 2027, of which Bonita Springs is required to remove 9303 lbs. The city has already successfully removed around 3,301 lbs. of nitrogen and has been developing a sustainable long-term solution for the remaining 6000 lbs.

Under the guidance of City Council, construction began on Phase 1 of its bioreactor project located in downtown Bonita Springs. The goal for Phase 1 of this project was to capture nitrogen removal ratings data as a baseline for FDEP to review and approve a removal efficiency rating for the bioreactor systems to facilitate the achievement of clean water statewide.

## What Are Bioreactors?

Bioreactors use an anaerobic (oxygen-starved) environment to leverage naturally occurring denitrification bacteria to remove nitrogen in the water. They work by running water through pipes into basins filled with carbon-based filtering materials (i.e., wood chips) that are used to collect the nitrogen and expel a more natural quality of water into local waterways. The woodchips act as a carbon source for anaerobic bacteria to colonize. The bacteria, in turn, strip nitrogen entrained in the stormwater runoff and convert it into nitrogen gas. This technology is proving to be highly effective at nitrogen removal, while at the same time being very cost-effective.

The bioreactor property serves dual purposes: to remove nitrogen, and to provide 101 parking stalls. Over 60 special events are held in downtown Bonita at Riverside Park each year. Among them, the city hosts events like July 4th and Holiday in the Park and event patrons use this lot for easy access to the events.

## The Big Ideas

The Felts Avenue Bioreactor Project utilizes a bio-retention process for nitrogen removal from stormwater runoff. The bioreactor concept is a low-impact development technique that requires very little “above ground” disturbance. It involves constructing sub-surface retention beds of woodchips, or burying pipes filled with woodchips, to create an anaerobic (oxygen-starved) nitrogen removing environment.

In addition, its underground footprint allows for above-ground use of the landscape that is not necessarily stormwater treatment-related. The Felts Avenue project capitalizes on this key feature by incorporating an at-grade 101-stall parking facility above the bioreactor’s water treatment cells. If the project had utilized a

traditional dry retention pond to treat the incoming stormwater, the area available for parking would have yielded just 28 spaces, as opposed to 101.

## Bonita Springs Results

Professional Geologist Greg Rawls recently reported that Phase 1 of the City of Bonita Springs bioreactor project had been able to remove between 77-98% of nitrate, a key species of nitrogen closely associated with manmade fertilizer, from the water filtered through the system. “I think what we’ve created is what’s going to be considered the new gold standard for nitrogen removal,” stated Professional Rawls. He attributes the increased effectiveness of the Bonita Springs bioreactor to Florida’s warmer groundwater temperatures that facilitate the anaerobic bacterial activity that the systems run on. “We’re blowing away the removal efficiencies and rates with this system,” he stated at a recent council meeting. This is great news as the City Council considers moving forward with the next phase of this project to meet and exceed the upcoming 5-year requirement for the Basin Management Action Plan. The ease of scalability, effectiveness and efficiency in terms of land usage and cost that Phase 1 of this project demonstrated serves as a solid framework for the City Council to review further applications of the system. I am very proud of this program, and look forward to Bonita Springs’ continued leadership in the environment and our waterways.

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# Property Values

**HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY** to write a property values article for *Bay Watch News* is an honor and certainly, after 32 years as a Realtor®, a subject that I speak about often and consider to be “in my blood”. Nevertheless, I struggled to pinpoint a topic that hasn’t already been addressed by my colleagues in the last two months. After much thought, it seemed appropriate to dive deeper into the most important things a seller can do to get the maximum amount of money for their house in the minimum amount of time. In my experience, that is what every seller wants!

First let me start with market statistics for Bonita Bay over the past year, broken down by property type:

	# Active listings 2020	Median List Price	Avg. DOM	# Sold 2019	Median Sold Price	Avg. DOM
<b>Single Family &amp; Detached Villas</b>	35	\$1,495,000	222	75	\$810,000	239
<b>Condos</b>	35	\$375,000	152	74	\$350,000	140
<b>High Rise</b>	54	\$1,525,000	242	57	\$1,269,000	277
<b>Attached Villas and Townhomes</b>	3	\$325,000	163	12	\$360,000	130

Interestingly, the data shows that over half the active listings in the single-family and villa homes category are priced over \$1,495,000, yet over half the sales in the same category last year were priced above \$810,000. The significantly higher median price this year means fewer lower-priced homes from which buyers can choose.

While not to the same extent, high-rise properties are also showing a higher median asking price than sold price. This is due in part to the number of units in the newer buildings of Seaglass and Omega that are currently on the market through MLS. This category is the only one where the number of sales in the past year is not at least double the number of current listings and thus is the weakest part of the market in Bonita Bay at this time.

So which homes sell the fastest for the most money and how can you position yourself to be one of them when you are ready to sell? There are three factors that directly affect “time on the market” – price, condition and location. Two of these factors – price and condition – are within your control.

## Price

There are multiple factors that come into play when determining a listing price that will inspire desirable offers. Seeking professional advice on this process is a key component to creating a successful listing strategy. While your real estate agent can analyze market data and community trends to give you intelligent advice, it’s still important to remember that market data is a fluid thing. As more properties come on the market and the competition for buyer attention and offers increases, the demand for lower prices can become inevitable. Some properties may sell at less than asking price, thus affecting how much other buyers are willing to pay and subsequently the value of your property. Meanwhile, there are also fluctuating local, national and global economic factors that can influence listing price and require adjustments on the seller side. This can be a very difficult part of the job for a Realtor®—telling their client that they need to lower their price to meet the demands of a changing market.

## Condition

While we have touched on this before, it can’t be overstated. Today’s buyers are reluctant to purchase a property if it needs a lot of updating to bring it up to today’s standards. This means that if you want to compete at higher listing prices, kitchens and baths need to be updated with granite or quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, wood cabinetry, European-height vanities, updated lighting and fixtures and current paint colors throughout.

Most homeowners don’t want to invest in large updates just to turn around and put their house on the market. We understand ... which is why we advise you to be aware of these trends and to keep up with improvements over the lifetime of your home. These investments can be enjoyed while you continue to live there and will pay off in the long run. Also keep in mind, buyers who are willing to purchase an outdated home will expect their anticipated remodeling efforts and costs to be reflected in the price.

Before a home goes on the market, it needs to be “sparkling” clean. That means thinning out closets, cabinets and garages. There is always an exception to the rule, but I’m betting that most of us do not live in a “market-ready” home on a day-to-day basis. The more you do before putting your house on the market, the more likely you are to have a successful and speedy sale.

You’ve already made the wise decision to live in one of the finest communities in all of Southwest Florida—the rest is up to you!

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Bonita Springs Historical Society Speaker Series – Drying Up: Florida's Fresh Water Crisis

February 13, 7 p.m.

Free for members and students, all others \$5

Bonita Springs Lions Club, 10346 Pennsylvania Avenue, West of Old 41 Road  
In the second talk of "Water: At A Crossroads," John Dunn, author of *Drying Up: The Fresh Water Crisis in Florida*, takes a hard look at the many causes of our state's fresh water shortage. Has Florida passed the tipping point? Dunn reviews past and current restoration efforts and spells out what you can do to help protect life's most precious resource.

## Bonita Bay Garden Club

February 12, 10:30 a.m.

Members \$35, non-members \$60 - Bonita Bay Club

Bonita Bay Garden Club brings in special guest Marta McDowell for a lecture and book signing for her book, "Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life," which is richly illustrated and filled with quotations from Potter's books, letters and journals. Marta will explore the origins of Potter's love of gardening and plants and show how this passion came to be reflected in her work. Lunch will be served. Questions? Please contact Mimi Gallo, 239-992-3936.

## Bonita Bay Club Women's Alliance – Donna Hill

February 12, 11:45 a.m.

Bonita Bay Club Founders Room

Author Donna Hill will be speaking about her two-volume travelog, "Yes, the World is Round," about sailing around the world. Guests are asked to bring donations of children's books for a local hospital.

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 17

President's Day

## The Speakers Assembly of Southwest Florida –

### Dinner with Kal Kallaugher

February 18, 5:30 p.m.

Members \$50, Guests \$65

Bonita Bay Club

Kal Kallaugher is an economic cartoonist, and at this dinner he will be doing a live cartoon drawing and engaging with the crowd.

## Premiere of the film "The Girls of Summer"

February 29, 6:30 p.m.

Free - Bonita Bay Club Ballroom

Come see the film "The Girls of Summer" written by and starring Tori Titmas, granddaughter of Bonita Bay Resident Bob and Jackie Titmas. The film also co-stars Tori's sister Cali Titmas. Following the film will be a Q&A session led by Tori. (See story page 27)

## Bonita Bay Veterans Council's Gala - "No One Left Behind"

March 2 5:30 p.m.

Bonita Bay Club Ballroom

In support of the Mission to assist local Veterans and their families, the Bonita Bay Veterans Council will hold its fifth annual Fundraiser.

Reservations can be made by calling the Bonita Bay Club Concierge at: (239) 495-0200.

The cost to attend is \$175 per person, payable by check to: Bonita Bay Veterans Council, and sent to: BBVC, 26660 Country Club Drive, Bonita Springs, FL 34134 or dropped off to the Club Concierge.



Juan Teodoro, DMD  
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# China ... Time to

**PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1979**, when China established diplomatic relations with the U.S., China virtually ignored U.S. patent, copyright and trade secret laws. China routinely refused to pay royalties to U.S. patent and copyright owners for infringing products used in China or exported to the U.S. from China. Most egregious were U.S. movies and Chinese-made electronics. But that all changed as a result of legal efforts I was involved in in 1991.

Prior to 1980, Chinese exports to the U.S. were mostly low-value, labor-intensive products like shoes, clothing and toys. By 1990, China had re-focused its export trade ... adding high technology products, particularly electronics. By 1991, China was challenging Japan and Korea in TV production. The only significant U.S. maker left was RCA which manufactured TVs through France's Thompson Consumer Electronics sets and parts in Bloomington, IN.

One offending Chinese manufacturer stood out ... Xiamen Overseas Chinese Electronic Co. Ltd. (XOCECO) which made TV sets for the U.S. market under the names Prima, Kamp and Crown. While Thompson's U.S. manufacturing was miniscule compared with Asia, RCA's patent portfolio was large and impressive.

In 1986, General Electric Company (GE) acquired RCA and its valuable patent portfolio. GE licensed the TV patents world-wide and derived substantial royalties. Japanese and Korean TV-set makers came to license terms with GE early on. Not so XOCECO or other large Chinese state-owned TV manufacturers. In 1991, a GE lawyer called me, asking that we take steps to stop the importation of infringing Chinese TV sets. The lawyer told me RCA had tried without success to negotiate a license with XOCECO. The photo of XOCECO headquarters building in the 1980s illustrates the size and sophistication of the threat to RCA's world-wide licensing program.

In 1991, we filed our complaint with the International Trade Commission (ITC) in Washington, D.C., alleging infringement of three RCA patents and seeking an order to exclude importation. The complaint was 22 pages with 230 pages of technical exhibits. The patents disclosed very complex circuits of resistors, capacitors, filters, inductors and diodes, mind-boggling and techno-babble to all but sophisticated electrical engineers and scientists.

Normal protocol when filing an ITC case in the U.S. against a foreign manufacturing company is to deliver a copy of the complaint on filing day to the embassy in Washington of the country of the infringing company. We chose to file and deliver on late Friday afternoon to give Chinese embassy officials the weekend to review the situation and hopefully contact XOCECO before the press picked up on the filing. In 1991, efforts to exclude importation of high-volume consumer products from anywhere, especially China,



# "Pay-Up"

By Jim Davis, Hidden Harbor

would be big business news. We believed China politically could ill-afford bad trade publicity as well as threat of an exclusion order.

It worked. The next Monday, a Washington lawyer representing the Chinese embassy called me for the name of a GE/RCA official to contact. Within the week, the matter was settled. The Chinese took a license on the same terms as the rest of the world. The system seemed to be working, at least as of 1991.

Consider this:

- In 2005, the Chinese patent office received 2,043 applications for Chinese inventions.
- In 2006, China agreed to a U.S. patent license, paying \$2.50 for every patented DVD player exported to the U.S.
- In 2012, in the ultimate turn-around, China sued Apple Computer for *infringement of a Chinese patent* on voice-recognition technology and Apple appeared in Shanghai court to defend itself.
- Later in 2012, the Chinese patent office received more patent applications than any other country, stemming from China's new efforts in "technology research and development.

"But in 2013, matters took an unfortunate turn. At informal summit meetings between President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Obama confronted Xi Jinping with "deep concerns" about China's "theft of intellectual property and hacks of private and government computers." Later, Xi Jinping assured Obama that China would not "conduct or knowingly support theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information with the intent of providing competitive advantage to companies or commercial sectors." U.S. officials at the time believed that "China probably entered the accord to avoid threatened sanctions and stepped-up legal pressure, including subsequent indictment of five Chinese military hackers on economic espionage charges."

Whatever China's reason, subsequent events have demonstrated China's bad faith:

- 2017-- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia filed criminal complaints against seven defendants alleging conspiracy to steal trade secrets relating to development of a strong light-weight material with commercial and military applications. One defendant was implicated in a scheme to illegally acquire trade secrets from American firms for transfer to companies in China.

- 2018 -- The Justice Department in Washington revealed that a federal grand jury had charged companies in China with a scheme to steal trade secrets from Micron Technology, which controls a quarter of the dynamic random access memory (DRAM) industry; these are the silicon chips used for information storage in virtually all computers and Smart Phones; the theft is alleged to be worth nearly \$9 billion. John Demers, Assistant Attorney General for National Security, says China is "shamelessly bent on stealing its way up the ladder of economic development and doing so at American expense." Furthermore, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that he was setting up a task force in the Justice Department called the "China Initiative" to devote more resources to fighting Chinese economic espionage. Sessions said, "It is time for China to join the community of lawful nations. International trade has been good for China, but the cheating must stop."

*"But in 2013, matters took an unfortunate turn. At informal summit meetings between President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Obama confronted Xi Jinping with "deep concerns" about China's "theft of intellectual property and hacks of private and government computers."*

- 2019 – In testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, FBI Director Christopher Wray noted that "more than 1,000 active investigations on intellectual property theft lead back to China." One of the China Initiative's key goals is to identify priority trade secret cases and work to bring to them to fruition in a timely manner.

At the very least, recent activity demonstrates that U.S legal authorities, particularly the DOJ, are on to what the Chinese are up to and the stakes involved. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielson jointly said,

"We strongly urge China to abide by its commitment to act responsibly in cyberspace and reiterate that the United States will take appropriate measures to defend our interests."

Indeed, in 2018, Vice President Mike Pence in a harshly worded speech accused Chinese security agencies of "masterminding the wholesale theft of American technology. China has long prioritized stealing U.S intellectual property to boost its domestic industries and its rise as a global power, according to federal law enforcement officials. They say China relies on an army of domestic computer hackers, traditional spies overseas and corrupt corporate insiders in the U.S. and other countries."

*(Editor's Note: Jim Davis, Hidden Harbor, practiced patent law in Washington, D.C. and Chicago for 40 years and was a trial judge with the U.S. Court of Claims in Washington for six years.)*



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# ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Team members here at Bay Watch News are huge live entertainment fans. There is so much to do "on campus" here in Bonita Bay but there are also so many good venues nearby that are worth taking advantage of. We have had trouble finding a common source for it all and are trying a new feature this year, pulling that together for our readers from a mix of our favorite venues. Some are nearby, some a bit further. This list is NOT all inclusive. Have other venues or acts you like? Let us know at [team@baywatchnews.com](mailto:team@baywatchnews.com).

DATE	WHAT	VENUE	LOCATION	ENTERTAINMENT TYPE	COMMENTS
<b>Most every night</b>	Various	Center Bar Promenade	Bonita Springs	Music	Mon to Thur 7 -10 pm and Fri-Sat 8 - 10 pm. Sun 5 - 8 pm. Check their website for latest.
<b>Most every night</b>	Various	Dog Tooth Sports and Music Bar	Naples	Music	Daily entertainment usually starting about 6 pm. Check website for latest.
<b>Sat, Feb 1</b>	Southwest Florida Symphony – The Music of Queen	Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	Fort Myers	Music	Music from the albums Classic Queen, A Night at the Opera, Sheer Heart Attack, Jazz, News of the World, A Kind of Magic, The Works and many more are all featured in this show.
<b>Tue, Feb 4</b>	Lucinda Williams	Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	Fort Myers	Music	Grammy winning music performer from Louisiana
<b>Tue, Feb 4</b>	GO Cabaret	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Music	Gulfshore Opera Professional Artists in Residence perform in cabaret style with a live jazz trio. Enjoy a fun and casual evening of nostalgic hits from the 40s, 50s, and 60s. From Broadway to jazz standards, you will recognize tunes from Cole Porter, Nat King Cole, Gershwin and others
<b>Tue, Feb 4- Sun Feb 9</b>	Hello Dolly!	Artis-Naples	Naples	Musical	Winner of four Tony Awards, Hello, Dolly! is the universally acclaimed smash that NPR calls “the best show of the year!”
<b>Wed, Feb 5</b>	Marc Cohn	W Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	Grammy Winner best known for Walking in Memphis
<b>Thu, Feb 6</b>	Kansas	Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	Fort Myers	Music	With a legendary career spanning more than four decades, Kansas has firmly established itself as one of America’s iconic classic rock bands.
<b>Sat, Feb 8</b>	SWFL Symphony – A Night at the Opera	Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	Fort Myers	Opera/Symphony	Duets from famous Operas
<b>Sat, Feb 8</b>	America’s Sweethearts	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Music	These New York City-based ladies have performed across the USA, getting crowds tapping their feet to hits like “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” as they celebrate history through their crystal-clear harmony and colorful costumes.
<b>Tue, Feb 11</b>	The Masters of Illusion	Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	Fort Myers	Magic	Starring the world’s greatest award-winning magicians, this 21st century magic show is perfect for the whole family
<b>Fri, Feb 14</b>	Bill Engvall	Artis-Naples	Naples	Comedy	Best known for his time on the Blue Collar Comedy Tour and his signature “Here’s Your Sign” routine, Engvall has cemented himself as one of today’s top comedians.
<b>Fri, Feb 14</b>	Just for Laughs Comedy Variety Show	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Comedy	Enjoy a fun night of everything funny. Comedy, music, improv, singing.
<b>Fri, Feb 14- Sun Feb 16</b>	Jersey Boys	Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	Fort Myers	Musical	Go behind the music and inside the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in the Tony and Grammy Award winning true-life musical phenomenon
<b>Sat, Feb 15</b>	Dan Miller - Lew Del Gatto Quintet: The Music of Irving Berlin	Center for the Arts	Bonita Springs	Music	Join trumpeter Dan Miller and saxophonist Lew Del Gatto as they celebrate the genius and music of Irving Berlin.
<b>Sun, Feb 16</b>	The Beach Boys	Artis-Naples	Naples	Old time surf rock	Iconic rock and rollers sing I Get Around, California Girls, Good Vibrations and many more
<b>Tue, Feb 18- Sun Feb 23</b>	Cats	Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	Fort Myers	Musical	The record-breaking musical spectacular by Andrew Lloyd Webber
<b>Fri, Feb 21</b>	Billy Ocean	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	R&B superstar with over 30 million records sold
<b>Thu, Feb 27</b>	John Lodge of The Moody Blues	SW Florida Event Center	Bonita Springs	Music	English musician, best known as bass guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter of the longstanding rock band the Moody Blues



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# Cars 'n Coffee

**THE STAFF AT BWN** is fascinated by classic cars, and in this we know we are not alone. The allure of a beautiful classic car is undeniable - the creativity, the elegance, the character that you will never see in a modern design - draws people in every time.

Nostalgia may be one explanation, but how to account for the popularity among all ages? Whatever the reason, you will find evidence of people's enthusiasm at the many local classic car shows. Fort Myers/Naples Porsche Cars 'n Coffee takes place the first Sunday of each month from 8 -10 a.m. They have been gathering together for more than five years over a cup of coffee

and a donut. The group meets at the adjacent parking lot to Porsche of Fort Myers, 10064 Daniels Interstate Court. They are open to all brands of automobiles. Join for two hours of great socializing whether your passion is related to local track events, Formula One racing, performance tuning your car or just reminiscing about the old days. Bring your exotic ride and show it off. All car clubs are always welcome as well.

Their Facebook fanpage can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/swflcarsncoffee/>.

Below are some images from recent shows.



*Audi R8 V-10*



*Porsche Turbo S*



*Pagani Huayra*



*Porsche Carrera GT*



*Dodge Vipers*



*Porsche RSR*



*McLaren (white)*



*Lamborghini*



*Mustang*



*Ford GT*

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4410 Green Heron ~ \$1,875,000  
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Mira Lago ~ Bonita Bay



4751 Bonita Bay Blvd. 1903 ~ \$880,000  
Vistas ~ Bonita Bay



4751 Bonita Bay Blvd 1103 ~ \$863,000  
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Wedgewood ~ Bonita Bay



4130 Bayhead Drive 304 ~ \$329,000  
Greenbriar ~ Bonita Bay



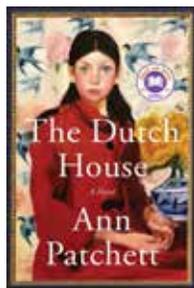
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# On the Bookshelf



## **The Dutch House** by Ann Patchett

*Bruce Stewart, Wedgewood*

This latest Ann Patchett book emerged with glowing recommendations from the book-selling industry and has since made several lists as one of the best novels of 2019. Since I had enjoyed her previous two novels, **Bell Canto** and **Commonwealth**, I dove in with enthusiasm.

I was not disappointed. Patchett is a wonderful writer with straight-forward prose whose descriptions paint unforgettable scenes and characters. She especially excels in dialogue revealing sharp and convincing aspects of the speaker's character. Cruelties imposed upon her characters in their early lives reappear with devastating consequences. The twisting plot was for me credible, convincing and, above all, fascinating.

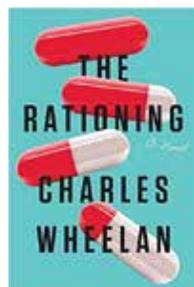
Near the end of World War II, Cyril (the father of narrator Danny) persuades Elna (the mother-to-be of Danny) to leave the nunnery and marry him. Seemingly poor, Cyril, a secretive, shrouded character, has in fact a flair for real estate speculation, which he is quietly turning into a fortune. He purchases without Elna's knowledge the elegantly furnished Dutch House, a neglected palatial home in upscale Elkins on the outskirts of Philadelphia.

When the book opens, Danny and his older sister Maeve are teenagers. Their mother, Elna, has deserted the family to perform good works in India. "Regard her as dead," the father coolly recommends as he continues to focus on his growing real estate interests while blithely distancing himself from his children whose upbringing he largely leaves to the mercies and virtues of the hired staff.

A new woman (Andrea) appears on the scene with two pre-school children whom she adores. Eventually, Andrea and Cyril wed while Maeve and Danny continue to be ignored except when Danny accompanies his father on his Saturday rounds of rent collecting. Suddenly, the father dies without making any provision for the care and support of his own teenaged children. Andrea inherits all (except, very significantly for our tale, a trust for the education of the four children); she expels Danny and Maeve (along with the hired staff) from the Dutch House.

The remainder of the novel follows the careers of the expelled children. Danny, while pursuing medical degrees, has acquired his father's genius in real estate speculation. The shocking treatment by their step-mother creates resentment and longing for earlier happy memories represented by the Dutch House, which mesmerizes Danny and Maeve, exercising a magnetic effect, drawing them back again and again. Affected by the indifference of his father and the harsh treatment of his step mother, Danny pursues his revenge against the step-mother and her two innocent children.

Ultimately, hatred, jealousies and dependencies are resolved. I confess to being spellbound by the book.



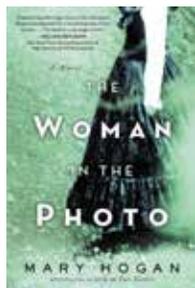
## **The Rationing** by Charles Wheelan

*Elaine Brotman, Bay Woods*

**The Rationing** by Charles Wheelan is an entertaining political satire that follows the handling of a national medical emergency involving recognizable national figures both in Congress and the White House. Around the year 2030, a new viral disease emerges, mainly in the US. No one is overly concerned because there exists Dormigen, a drug that effectively treats viral and bacterial infections. A warehouse fire destroys the federal government's stockpile of Dormigen. The private company that produces the drug decides not to keep the supply up to date in order to cut costs and improve their bottom line. Now it takes three weeks to replenish the drug. As the death toll rises, the National Health Institute is racing to develop a faster alternative. At the same time, the government must ration the life-saving drug deciding who gets it and who does not.

The narrator of the book is a scientist and the world's leading expert on lurking viruses. He is in charge of the research and given access to the White House as leaders grapple with finding a cure. They are also seeking help from foreign nations who are willing to share Dormigen, but demand something in return. China wants to achieve dominance in Asia by forcing the US not to sign a treaty with the other nations in the region. The Prime Minister of India wants help from the US in his reelection campaign.

Wheelan gives the reader fast-paced plots showing insights into the workings of a government in crisis. He cleverly portrays the sharply differing personalities with all their posturing, backstabbing and manipulations in trying to achieve their personal goals. The rationing segments are compelling and believable, and the political segments are humorous and fun to read.



## The Woman in the Photo by Mary Hogan

*Shirley Gorman, Oakwood*

**The Woman in the Photo** is Elizabeth Haberlin. The photo was taken shortly after the Johnstown Flood of 1889, which completely swept away the city and changed the life of Elizabeth Haberlin.

Elizabeth's well-to-do family summered in Johnstown. Their cottage looked down upon the city. Elizabeth enjoyed her upper-class life until the flood.

The novel shifts between 1889 and the present. The main character in the present is Lee (Elizabeth) Parker. Lee was adopted by Gil and Valerie Parker. Gil deserts his family and Valerie and Lee find themselves living in a pool house belonging to a wealthy woman. Valerie works as a maid for the woman.

Lee is 17 and works at Bed, Bath and Beyond. On her 18th birthday, Lee will be able to learn about her birth mother. Even though Lee loves Valerie, she has a need to discover her true identity.

Lee's search will lead her to the woman in the photo. Just as the Johnstown flood changed Elizabeth Hamberlin's life, the photo will change Lee Parker's life.

### READER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Do you have a book you'd like to recommend? Let us know the title, author, your name, neighborhood and your rating up to 5 stars and we'll pass it on in the next issue! Email us at [lauren@baywatchnews.com](mailto:lauren@baywatchnews.com)

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#### Recommended Book

The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell

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Robert Dugoni

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#### Stars

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★★★★★

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# Big Screen Movie Reviews

## LITTLE WOMEN

**Director:** Greta Gerwig  
**Writer:** Greta Gerwig,  
based on the novel by  
Louisa May Alcott  
**Stars:** Saoirse Ronan,  
Emma Watson, Florence  
Pugh, Eliza Scanlen, Laura  
Dern, Timothée Chalamet



**Runtime:** 135 minutes

Louisa May Alcott wrote her post-Civil War children's book *Little Women* in 1868, and the second part of the book *Good Wives*, the year after. It is a family story partially based on Alcott's upbringing in Concord, MA as the second of four sisters.

The novel has been in print continuously since it was first published, and adapted for the big screen six times, as early as 1917. *Little Women* has been an opera, a Broadway play, adapted for television numerous times, included in the PBS *Masterpiece Collection*, and a ballet. It's fair to say the story of the March family and the four siblings is an American classic. The actress, writer and filmmaker Greta Gerwig, coming off her directorial debut *Lady Bird*, was selected by Sony Studio to adapt and direct this generation's film.

The four young women are 12-year-old Amy (Florence Pugh), 13-year-old Beth (Eliza Scanlen), 15-year-old Jo, who is the novel's fictional surrogate (Saoirse Roan) and 16-year-old Meg (Emma Watson). Between Christmas 1862 and Christmas 1863, during which most of the film takes place, Father March (Bob Odenkirk) is absent, voluntarily serving in the Civil War as a Union Army chaplain. Mother Marmee (Laura Dern) holds the family together. The family wealth was wiped out as a result of a bad loan Father March made to a friend who turned out to be a deadbeat and now they find themselves surviving on whatever earnings are made by Meg as a governess, Jo as a companion to rich Aunt March, Marmee sewing uniforms for the Army and help from relatives.

Life is now a struggle but they still live in a good neighborhood in a nice, cozy home, across from a wealthy old guy Mr. Laurence (Chris Cooper) and his nephew Laurie (Timothée Chalamet) who both become part of the narrative.

The story unfolds in vignettes over the year and flashes forward as the young women grow and develop into adulthood during a time very different from today. The performances are excellent and absorbing. The pace can be excessively slow at times but the scenes flow nicely one to the other.

There have been discussions by fans of the novel's ending, past versions of the adaptations and how this current version is a more proper homage to the author's real life. Alcott was a strong woman who took control of her life, accumulated wealth as a writer and did not allow herself to be dictated to by others, particularly men. The ending of *Little Women* does differ from the novel from which

it was adapted. Outside of the chatter bubble, this is just a timeless movie about a wonderful family, four admirable children and their struggles to survive. Enjoy.

## STAR WARS: EPISODE IX - THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

**Director:** J.J. Abrams  
**Writers:** Screenplay by J.J. Abrams and Chris Terrio;  
story by Derek Connolly,  
Colin Trevorrow, Chris  
Terrio, J.J. Abrams, based  
on characters created by  
George Lucas



**Stars:** Carrie Fisher (archive footage), Mark Hamill,  
Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Oscar Isaac, Ian  
McDiarmid

**Runtime:** 142 minutes

The evilest of the evil Siths (famous for giving us the Dark Side), Sith Lord and Emperor Palpatine (Ian McDiarmid), was seen several years and movies ago, getting thrown into a Death Star's reactor. A particularly gruesome and somewhat fitting end to a gruesome character. But that was several years ago and this is, of course, a *Star Wars* movie. Palpatine is back and looking a little uncomfortable what with being held together with conduits, pipes, cables and wires up to the clouds. However, he's not a quitter. His latest plan is to destroy whole planets with a rocket blaster attached to each of his thousands of rocket ships, all in the name of incinerating the Resistance forces, this time for good.

If Palpatine can come back from the dead, it's a cinch that the Leader of the Resistance General Leia (deceased Carrie Fisher - who really did die after production of the last movie) can and does rise up from the grave to lead again. No RIP for her, if there's money to be made.

With no possible way of stopping Palpatine and having only a day or two to prepare, the Resistance, having gotten wind of Palpatine's diabolical plans, makes one hopeless last-ditch effort to rid the universe not only of Palpatine but also the regime of the First Order and their battleships and millions of storm troopers.

General Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), Finn (John Boyega) and Rey (Daisy Ridley), with the help of various droids/robots and weird creatures, do most of the heavy lifting of the ragtag forces of the Resistance. They find Palpatine's secret planet and his strike force. Meanwhile, Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) -- formerly Ben Solo before going to the Dark Side -- leader of the First Order and in charge of destroying the Resistance, gets distracted by his stubborn quest to persuade beautiful Rey to come over to the Dark Side and join him as leader of the galaxy/universe/black holes/whatever's out there thing. While they're busy resolving their little disagreement, the ragtag rebels cleverly devise ways around Palpatine's high tech advantage and save man/droid/weird characters-kind and democracy.



After all the explosions, death and destruction, the Resistance pilots and their beat-up space ships fly off to their mountain camp, handshakes all around, backslapping and kissing. Rey flies off to the planet/hometown of Tatooine, former home of Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and after burying a couple of lightsabers gets to tell a passerby her name is Rey “Skywalker”, making for the emotional ending (and, a whole other story).

Much has happened in this one-of-a-kind space opera over the past 42 years and, supposedly, reportedly, maybe, *The Rise of Skywalker* wraps up this complex outer space land of make believe. Beyond all the marketing hype and stories about what the fanatical fans crave, the immensity of this production, including the plots, the fantastic sets, complex staging, the interplanetary travel, lightsaber battles, quality acting and dramatic musical compositions are plenty of reasons to see this movie.

**UNCUT GEMS**

**Director:** Benny Safdie, Josh Safdie  
**Writers:** Ronald Bronstein, Josh Safdie, Benny Safdie  
**Stars:** Adam Sandler, Keith Williams Richards, Tommy Kominik, LaKeith Stanfield, Idina Menzel  
**Runtime:** 135 minutes



*Uncut Gems* begins in an Ethiopian mine where a rock the size of a man’s fist is found populated with glittering opals. With the aid of trick camera work, the brilliance of the embedded gems segues to a trip through the inners of Howard Ratner’s (Adam Sandler) colon to an intimate view of his real-time colonoscopy. It’s not a big reveal to say we later find out he doesn’t have cancer but it is

the basis of a pretty good joke. As we exit the colon, we’re off to a non-stop 135-minute adrenaline-fueled ride with Howard. He is the owner of a New York City jewelry shop who has an excessive gambling habit, is currently having an affair with his young, beautiful associate Julia (Julia Fox) and is scheduled for a divorce. Wife Dinah (Idina Menzel) can’t stand Howard despite his pleas of future fidelity. As soon as Passover concludes, it’s “Sayonara, Howard.” But Howard has more immediate problems than his messy divorce.

The movie takes place in 2012 when the Boston Celtics and Philadelphia 76ers played a best of four games series, three of which were in New York City. Kevin Garnett played for the Celtics and the real Kevin appears as himself.

The Safdie brothers who wrote and directed *Uncut Gems* follow Howard through the streets of New York City and in and out of his small retail store in the Diamond District. Throughout the movie, Howard plays a constant, messy shell game with Garnett, who wants to buy the opal rock, and with Arnie, his bookie-brother-in-law (Eric Bogosian) and his two goons, looking to get what Howard owes him.

Ratner is self-destructive throughout the movie, unable to hear good advice when it’s given, simply making bad choices, one after another. He piles up gambling debts trying to cover gambling debts. He takes whatever collateral is near, whether he owns it or not. He seems airborne. He cannot stop. It’s difficult to conclude that Howard is simpatico, anti-hero or simply somebody who it would be wise to just stay away from, or, all of that.

Apparently, what gives the story a difference is the unusual pace which never slows and Adam Sandler being Adam Sandler. But, after 2¼ hours, all of it finally does stop. That’s if you stay in the theater that long.

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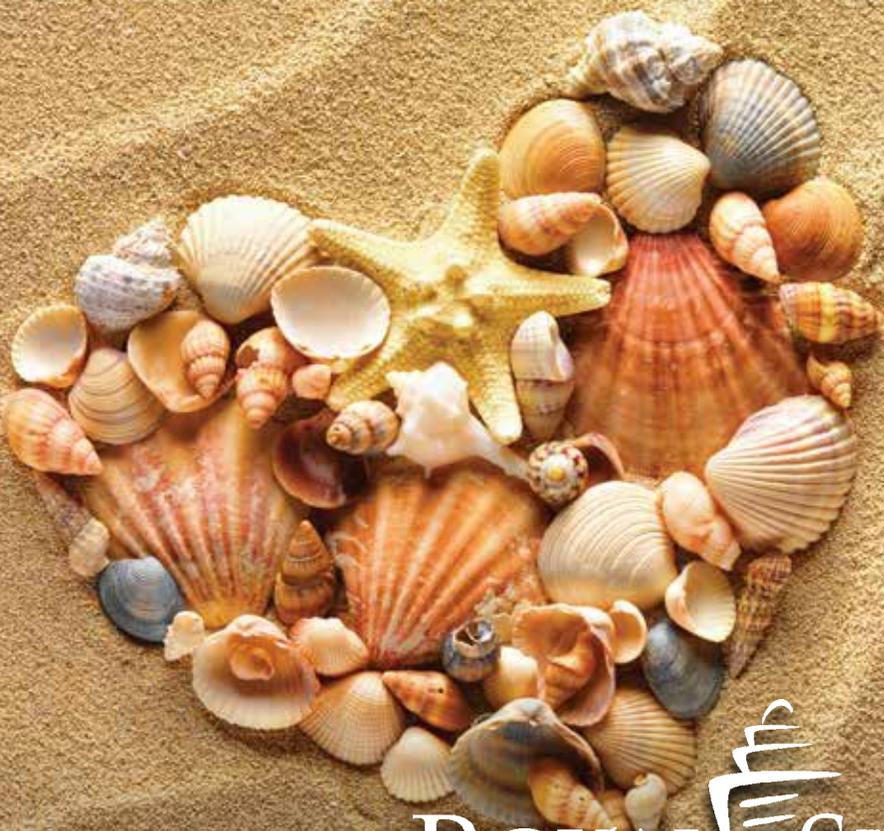
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# Inaction Today Is Risky and Potentially Costly

## WHEREAS:

- Political volatility is at the highest rate since Nixon.
- The stock market is at all-time highs.
- The most recent annual federal deficit was over \$1 trillion and projected to be the same for each of the next ten years.
- The concentration of wealth belonging to America's top 1% has risen sharply.
- The notion of a wealth tax discussed by Senator Warren is not a new concept.
- The sunset of the current estate tax exemption in 2025 could easily happen in 2021 after the election and the new exemption could be as low as \$1 million.

## THEREFORE:

When it comes to creating and maintaining a flexible estate plan, inaction today is a risky and potentially costly approach.

## ONE SOLUTION:

A Spousal Lifetime Access Trust (SLAT) is a flexible trust that can help you prepare today for future uncertainty in the political landscape, economics and tax laws.

## SLAT:

In the simplest of terms, a SLAT is an irrevocable trust created by one spouse ("donor spouse") for the benefit of the other spouse ("beneficiary spouse"). The donor spouse uses their gift tax exemption now to make a gift for the beneficiary spouse.

While the donor spouse gives up control of the gifted assets, the beneficiary spouse is given flexible control and access to the assets. At the death of the beneficiary spouse, any remaining unused assets, plus any appreciation on those assets, pass free of gift and estate taxes to the next generation.

The SLAT can be structured with many different parameters, variables and options, and below are just some of the characteristics:

- (1) The SLAT must be irrevocable to the donor spouse.
- (2) The donor spouse must use only their separate property when funding the SLAT. Jointly owned property should not be used.
- (3) The beneficiary spouse can serve as sole trustee provided discretionary distributions are subject to a subjective "ascertainable standard," for their health, maintenance and support.

- (4) Though the beneficiary spouse is the primary beneficiary, the trustee spouse can also be given the option to make discretionary distributions to children and grandchildren.
- (5) Both liquid assets (stocks) and illiquid assets (real estate) can be used to fund a SLAT. A second residence could be used. Using one's primary homestead residence is possible but requires further consideration.
- (6) Each spouse may create a SLAT for the other spouse provided they have sufficient different terms to avoid the reciprocal trust doctrine.

In these uncertain times, the ability to use your increased estate and gift tax exemption before it sunsets in a manner that still benefits your spouse (and indirectly you while your spouse is living) is a strategy of flexibility that can weather the outcome of this year's November election.

*David P. Browne, P.A.*

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# Our Bonita Bay Wedding Experience

By **Brendan Steele** BWN Staff Writer

## OUR LOVE STORY

I met my wife in Bonita Springs and after our first date we were inseparable. We both love outdoor activities -- kayaking, running, walking and watching beautiful sunsets on the beaches of Bonita. I proposed to Kristen March 16, 2018 during sunset on Little Hickory Island, just a short walk from the Bonita Bay Beach Park. I was so nervous I could barely speak ... thank goodness she said yes!

## Selecting the Venue: Bonita Bay All The Way!

Our first thought was to have our wedding on the beach. Why not, right? We contacted every facility that we knew of that allowed weddings on the beach, but in the end we thought "what if it rained?"

Luckily our wedding day was beautiful, but what eventually sold us on Bonita Bay Club was that they had a backup room that we could use in the case of inclement weather. Although we are both from out of state, it was important for us to have our wedding in Southwest Florida because it was the place we fell in love. We did not want a traditional wedding ceremony in a church, but rather an outdoor ceremony under the sun and palm trees. The Bonita Bay Club has a beautiful courtyard area with palm trees and flowers surrounding the area. It is the perfect spot to have a wedding ceremony.

## Picking the Date: April 13, 2019

We decided on April because we had a large number of northern guests from Boston and Baltimore who would appreciate the warm weather after a long winter! If you plan on booking a venue in this area from September to May, be sure to do it way in advance.

## Our Vendors

For those who might be considering a wedding in the area, I thought I would list some of our vendors, since we did a lot of homework and can eliminate some of the work for you.

Photography: Love Letters Co. -- Kelly Howell has done weddings at Bonita Bay before and she knew all the locations for photo opportunities.

Cake: Mikkelsen's -- great place to get any kind of cake made for a big event.

Flowers: Botanical on the Gulf -- Kevin knocked the centerpieces out of the park.

Wedding Dress: Lorenta Bridal -- Kristen found her dress at Lorenta Bridal and looked amazing.



Men's wear: Men's Wearhouse -- We went with suits rather than tuxedos because we wanted a more fun atmosphere than a formal one. I had my groomsmen purchase their suits rather than rent them.

Host Hotel: The Trianon -- The location was ideal -- right outside Bonita Bay's main gate.

Band: Bay Kings Band -- We could have gone with a DJ, but this is a group of extremely talented musicians that can be mixed and matched with instruments and music choices to suit your tastes.

Events Coordinator: Bonita Bay's Catering Manager Darcy Bodiker -- Darcy manages all of the big events that Bonita Bay hosts, including weddings. She helped us understand what our options were, select great vendors and stay within our budget.

## The Big Day

I am sure you have been to weddings where you get bussed and shuttled from place to place. It seems like you spend more time traveling from one venue to the next than you do spending time with the other guests! For that reason, it was important for our wedding to be all in the same location. Our guests traveled very far to be with us and the Bonita Bay facility allowed the transition between the ceremony, cocktail hour and reception to be seamless!

From the ceremony, our guests walked down the hallway to the Fireside Room for cocktail hour where we had drinks, appetizers and the saxophone player from the Bay Kings Band playing some smooth jazz. Kristen and I took this opportunity to have a few pictures taken ... many right outside the fireside room where our guests could see us from the distance. Our photographer was quick and efficient because we wanted to go see our guests!

From cocktail hour we went through the big doors to the ball room for the wedding reception. Darcy was able to set up a dance floor and arrange the seating around it. A big selling point to having your wedding at Bonita Bay is their food. My goodness. Not only is it delicious, but they have industrial-size ovens that can cook everyone's meal and have it ready at the same time. After the toast, all were served their meals within minutes!

## Looking Back

Six months have passed and as I look back on our day, I wouldn't change a thing. Everything went off without a hitch! Even to this day, everyone says it was the best wedding they have ever been to, many thanks to the incredible hospitality of Bonita Bay!

*(Editor's Note: Brendan Steele is the Bay Watch News staff member who writes the monthly feature "Dining Out With Kristen and Brendan". He can be reached at [basteel9@gmail.com](mailto:basteel9@gmail.com) for more information.)*



# Profiles Around Bonita Bay

By Dick Connelly, Woodlake

## Know Your Waitress—Michele Glenn

Sitting at your table at the 55<sup>th</sup> Hole, your cocktail is often delivered by Michele Glenn, the pretty blond waitress. It's possible you never realized that she has PARACHUTED OUT OF AIRPLANES MORE THAN 600 TIMES!



"I started sky diving several years ago and I made my first jump on my birthday in 2010," Michele says. "I've been hooked ever since."

She starts at 14,500 feet with other sky divers. As they fall to Earth, they hit 120 miles per hour. At 3,500 feet, she opens her parachute and glides to the ground.

When she lands, she's only going about 10 mph and the impact is minimal. She sky dives at an airfield in Clewiston, FL a little more than an hour away at Lake Okeechobee. The aircraft she jumps from is an 18-passenger Super Caravan.

Michele sky dives more than once a week, often performing aerial gymnastics with other divers. The group forms patterns as they descend at about 1,000 feet a minute. One team she dives with can have as many as 20 participants and is called "Critical Mass." She is also a member of a smaller group called "Four Play."

So what does sky diving training cost? Michele says you generally start with a course that runs 25 sessions and costs about \$2,500. It involves eight ground course sessions, then you start jumping out of the aircraft with a coach to whom you are physically attached. And yes, the coach has a spare parachute as part of his gear. If you progress well, you are allowed to jump by yourself on your 17<sup>th</sup> dive.

When you become a full-time jumper, you are then expected to get a license from the U. S. Paratroopers Association.

How does all this relate to the Bonita Bay Club? Michele (Glenn née Buschbacher) is originally from Michigan and has worked at BBC for more than 10 years. During this time, she has encouraged club members to try sky diving. Norm Roberts is one.

"She arranged for me to sky dive some years ago and I would describe it as wonderfully exhilarating," Norm said. When you leave the plane, the noise is intense, he said, but then the chute opens, and it's wonderfully quiet. And when you land, there is no sense of any impact.

Haydn Matthews did two jumps a few years ago at Michele's encouragement. "The first one I did with my daughter and while I was very impressed, I did get dizzy while descending. But the second dive went fine. It's far safer than you would imagine."

Five years ago, Janie Gill was persuaded by Michele to sky dive and loved it. "It was a most wonderful experience," she said, but hasn't dived again.

Another club member who Michele got interested in sky diving is Pat Joyce. "I just did one jump. We didn't tell our kids what I was doing and when I told them after I'd jumped, they said, 'Mom, are you nuts?'"

## Know Your Pro—Hugh Vaughn



One of our busiest golf professionals at Bonita Bay is Hugh Vaughn. He gives an average of five lessons a day, starting as early as 7 a.m. and ending as late as 6 p.m. And amazingly, he maintains his sanity.

"I've been giving lessons for more than 30 years," he says, "and I find these sessions challenging and helpful."

He started playing golf when he was 11 years old and, at one point, while on a golf scholarship at Florida Southern College, he was a +3 handicap.

Born in Hershey, PA, Hugh was inspired to take up golf by his uncle Mike Souchak, a tour pro who won several tour events in the 70's. Hugh turned pro in 1988 and worked at several golf clubs in Pennsylvania, including Carlisle CC, Saucon Valley CC, the Country Club of York and St. David's CC in Wayne.

He came to Bonita Bay in 2001, then moved here full time in 2004. He has given more than 300 lessons over the years. Perhaps his most memorable was a woman whose right wrist was paralyzed from polio. He taught her to play golf using just her left arm. "That was the most satisfying series of lessons I've ever given," he said. He also taught a man to relax his hands and arms, slow his tempo and finish his turn. The man gained 40 yards on his tee shots.

Hugh gave a playing lesson many years ago to NBA legend Charles Barkley. "He needed help with his short game and I was able to assist," Hugh said.

The lowest score Hugh ever shot was a 62 in a tournament in 1977. And he's had only one hole-in-one.

## Know Your Guard—Norm Kaye



Norm Kaye works the North Gate on a regular basis and has been doing so for 15 years. "I enjoy dealing with people," he says. "And the people who come by, to see family or friends or come for business reasons are very nice to deal with."

How often are visitors rejected? "I'd say only about one in 50," he said.

Norm was born and reared in Chicago and spent his career in Education. He received his Bachelor and Master's degrees in Education at Northern Illinois University in 1953. He then joined the staff at Lincoln College near Bloomington, IL where he worked for seven years.

His next assignment was the University of South Florida in Tampa where he started a Peace Corp Program. His longest education assignment was at St. Leo's College north of Tampa where he worked from 1966 to 1993. At St. Leo's, he chaired the Physical Education Department and oversaw all athletics.

Norm retired from education and came to SWFL to be with his son and grandkids or as he described it, "become the family baby sitter." But then in 2004, probably a little restless (because he's now only 88 years old), he joined the Guard staff at Bonita Bay and started working the North Gate. He works an 8 or 10-hour shift for four or five days a week.

So sometime, if you'd like to meet an extremely articulate, friendly and chatty man, come in through the North Gate and take the left entry lane. You'll enjoy a brief visit.



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## VIEW FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE

# Input Sought for 30-year BB Plan

By Charlie Vogt, Montara

**CITING THE CONTINUING SUCCESS** of Bonita Bay's long-range planning process, Board members are rumored to be expanding their horizon to a 30-year plan. The report, though still unconfirmed, indicated members would be asked for input on the document. It is rumored, however, that input would be limited to members under 75 years old, as some super-seniors might make frivolous suggestions owing to their "smaller stake" in the future.

Planners are hoping to expand on their already-agreed-upon standard topics, such as how many times to re-do Bay Island course, where to relocate the short-game practice area and whether to actually put sand into the bunker cavities.

One spokesman cited the "changing demographic" of club members as one reason why a new longer plan is needed. With the success of Blue Zones programs, the average member age is expected to be in the range of 87 years old. "And that might call for converting some pickleball courts into croquet facilities," one observer noted. Trivia Nights might be divided into two tiers, one for 20<sup>th</sup> century topics and another for more recent times. The venue for the former competition would be enhanced to include Surround Sound Triple Volume.

Perhaps the biggest change required to meet future old-person needs would be an additional set of tees for all the courses. The 150-yard play-it-forward tees would be enlarged to standard size, and supplemented by the 125-yard play-it-forward tees to be known as the "Bentley Tees."

One person said a far-reaching plan might be important for male members, as future projections indicate likelihood of an

all-female Board of Directors somewhere down the road. The person who speculated that might be the case was immediately censured and sent to the misogynist room (formerly the golf training center). He was led off shouting "Protect the men's grill!"

Another consideration for the future might be what to do with vast unused areas of the parking lot. With fewer members able to drive themselves, club parking facilities would look like a vast wasteland. Perhaps THERE would be the spot for the golf teaching facility. Or maybe our own private Urgent Care facility.

Even without confirmation that such a long-range plan might even exist, many members are asking already what they can do with their suggestions. That question just brought a smirk from an official, as he muttered something about filing them in the usual place ...

A suggestion from the wildly radical left speculated climate change might come into play in the latter years of a plan. They alarmingly asserted rising seas might have a profound effect on places such as Backwater Jacks restaurant. We might have to either put it on stilts and advertise it as "boat accessible" from ALL sides. Or just change the name to Underwater Jacks. But such thoughts were squelched because Backwater Jacks is only in our backyard, and not quite a BB club facility ... yet. Also delayed were considerations of adding kayak ports next to the clubhouse where bicycle racks are now located. Any more suggestions along this line have been put on hold, pending a fact-finding cruise to and through Venice.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Sold Date	Sold Price	Sub/Condo Name	Address	Bedrooms	Baths	Living Area
1/10/20	\$1,850,000	Tavira	4851 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3 Bed	3	3,827
1/8/20	\$2,825,000	Tavira	4851 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3+Den	3.5	4,064
12/31/19	\$1,995,000	Seaglass	4971 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3+Den	3.5	3,088
12/30/19	\$775,000	Esperia South	4951 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3 Bed	3	2,530
12/30/19	\$1,685,000	Seaglass	4971 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3 Bed	3.5	2,889
12/30/19	\$1,775,000	Seaglass	4971 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3 Bed	3.5	2,889
12/27/19	\$1,500,000	Oak Knoll	27201 Oak Knoll Dr.	4+Den	4.5	4,574
12/20/19	\$725,000	Bayview	4801 Island Pond Ct.	3 Bed	3	2,900
12/20/19	\$595,000	Montara	3322 Montara Dr.	3+Den	2.5	2,547
12/19/19	\$599,000	Enclave	3641 Key Lime Ct.	4 Bed	2.5	2,277
12/19/19	\$855,000	Estancia	4801 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3 Bed	3	2,711
12/17/19	\$1,500,000	Tavira	4851 Bonita Bay Blvd.	3+Den	3.5	4,146
12/17/19	\$440,000	Waterford	3311 Glen Cairn Ct.	3 Bed	3	1,954
12/13/19	\$1,199,000	Marina Isle	27640 Marina Isle Ct.	4 Bed	3.5	3,540
12/13/19	\$425,000	Wedgewood	26891 Wedgewood Dr.	3 Bed	2	2,126



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# Dining Out with Kristen and Brendan

## OLDE FLORIDA CHOP HOUSE: FINE MEATS & SEAFOOD

**KRISTEN AND I** decided to celebrate the beginning of 2020 at the Olde Florida Chop House located at 3401 Bay Commons Drive in Bonita Springs.

We did not have to travel far from the Bonita Bay front gate to arrive at our destination. This lovely new restaurant is located inside of the Trianon Hotel. The restaurant is a welcome addition to the hotel which also has the Lake House Bar and Grill, the more casual outdoor dining experience.

The Olde Florida Chop House is the hotel's newest and more refined dining experience, and you could tell right away when you walked through the entryway. Everything looked brand new and freshly renovated. Outside on the



lake was Bonita Bay's red Christmas tree still floating in the background; there were a few outside tables that seemed quite intimate. Next time we will be sure to call ahead in advance to reserve those! This time, however, we sat inside which was elegantly decorated. They also offered bar seating with an impressive selection and comfortable seats.

They offered a champagne special, but that night we were in the mood for some red wine. For our appetizer we ordered the mussels in a white sauce with a Thai-style twist. The portion size was small but it was very tasty and different. Call me old fashioned, but I think I prefer a more traditional red sauce with my mussels. They also brought out pretzel bread with butter that was too good to resist!

We were also in the mood for a Caesar salad that night, which was large enough for the two of us to split (be sure to tell them to hold the anchovies if you are not a fan!). Regardless, it was a nice start to our meals.

For the main course I had a New York Strip steak. When in Rome! I ordered mine medium rare and opted for the truffle fries on the side. Kristen ordered the Smoked Salmon with an impressive garnish of thinly sliced and spiraled crispy fried potatoes. She ordered a side of Brussels sprouts that was sweet and crispy. Maybe it was the wine, maybe it was the New Year's Eve feeling in the air, but we decided to splurge that night and looked at the dessert menu. We saw the gluten-free chocolate cake and had to have it!

The Olde Florida Chop House was a great experience. The staff was friendly and attentive. Our server provided excellent service and was very helpful. I recommend this restaurant to anyone looking for a night out of fine dining and looking to try a newly opened restaurant. It may be an expensive night out but we can assure you it is worth the taste and experience. Cheers!

### RATING:

Food: ★★★★★

Décor: ★★★★★

Value for Money: ★★★★★

Overall Experience: ★★★★★

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# Techno-Savvy

## THE APPLE CREDIT CARD

**YOU MAY HAVE HEARD** talk of the new Apple Credit Card, but what really distinguishes it from the one you already have in your wallet? It's a stately titanium credit card (yes, the card is metal) but is it worth your while to get one or is it just a minor, mostly irrelevant and incremental improvement?

Many of the features that the Apple Credit Card offers are features your current card already has, such as 'Tap to Pay,' which modern debit and credit cards offer and modern cell phones support. If you take a look at the card in your wallet and there is a golden box towards one end, that's the contact point for the card which allows you to use Tap to Pay. While you don't literally have to tap it on the machine in order for it to register, it works up to an inch and a half away. Your phone also has this same technology, which is why you can use your Apple Wallet or Google Pay (formerly Android Pay) and tap your phone to the card reader to complete your transaction.

One bonus of the Apple Credit Card is that there is no annual fee and no outright late fees. It also offers unlimited cash back but only 2% on purchases, and that's only on purchases made through Apple Pay. On this front, cards like Fidelity Visa and Citi Double Cash offer the same amount, but on all purchases.

One bonus of the Apple Credit Card is that there is no annual fee and no outright late fees. You get 3% back on all Apple purchases and at some select merchants, and it also offers unlimited cash back on purchases made through Apple Pay. Those purchases will net you 2% back. If you find a store that doesn't accept Apple Pay yet you will still get 1% back. On this front, cards like Fidelity Visa and Citi Double Cash also offer 2% but on all purchases.

This all goes to say that this card is really of most use to those who own Apple products (like an iPhone) and routinely use Apple services like Apple Pay and Apple Wallet. As with all Apple products, the card is built to work flawlessly and effortlessly within the integrated Apple system. This is one of the greatest strengths of the card. It's a competitive card, and is most useful if you use Apple Pay for your purchases.

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# The Seasoned Traveler

## MAIDEN VOYAGES 2020

CLIA, Cruise Lines International Association, expects 32 million cruise passengers for 2020, which is great news! There are over 19 new cruise ships slated for their maiden voyage this year. Whether you prefer river cruising or ocean cruising, there are many new choices. Here's a rundown on just several.

Celebrity Apex features the same Magic Carpet as the Edge. Apex sails with 2910 passengers starting in April. Odyssey of the Seas, by Royal Caribbean, hosts 4100 passengers in the Mediterranean starting in November. Princess christens the Enchanted Princess in July with 3660 passengers sailing mainly in Europe. Regent Seven Seas welcomes the Splendor this spring, also slated for European itineraries in the all-suite, all-balcony, all-inclusive ship. New to cruising, Richard Brandon debuts Virgin Cruises with the first of three identical ships. On The Scarlett Lady, 2880 passengers find a focus on

wellness with the "Vitamin Sea" concept.

River cruises are not to be outdone! AMA births the new AMA Siena in July with 156 passengers, several dining venues, connecting staterooms for multi-generational families and even features a swim-up bar. Avalon debuts the Avalon View on the Rhine with 154 passengers. Tauck River Cruises welcomes the Andorinha which sails on Portugal's Douro River. Uniworld debuts the Sphinx with just 84 passengers on the Nile in Egypt. And Viking, which christened 16 ships in one day several years ago, also has a new ship, the Osiris, on the Nile.

Many special rates are available on all of these new ships. There's such a variety -- where do you want to go?

*By Pat Hazen, CTC  
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# Bonita Bay Club Croquet

**MOST OF US HAVE PLAYED** backyard croquet at some time, either at a family reunion at Grandma and Grandpa's house or at some other large get-together. This game is still being played in thousands of back yards every year, but did you know it is also a competitive sport, played in tournaments across the country?

The modern game of croquet has a very long history. It is believed to have been first played by 13th century French peasants who used crudely fashioned mallets to whack wooden balls through hoops made of willow branches. Ireland began playing in the 1830's and introduced the game to England in the 1850's where it became so popular that garden parties, called croquet parties, were all the rage.

The All England Croquet Club was formed in Wimbledon, creating an official body to control the game and unify the laws in 1868. Soon after, a new game, called lawn tennis, swept the country. Lawn tennis became so popular that soon the name croquet was deleted from the club's name. Luckily, croquet regained its popularity and the name was changed again to the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club and remains so today. By 1865, croquet was becoming popular in America, and by the 1970's it was catching on seriously as a competitive sport in the U.S. and Canada.

The sport of croquet is now played competitively in over 20 countries, including Egypt, Australia and New Zealand. The growth of the sport is largely thanks to croquet organizations such as Croquet Canada and the United States Croquet Association. Since the early 1980's the number of competitive players in North America has risen from 50 to 8,000. Croquet was an Olympic event only once -- in Paris in 1900.

The game called Golf Croquet has become very popular for social games and for competition. The game is played with four

balls and made up of two teams alternating turns. Only one ball goes through each wicket, so strategy is a big part of the game. Players do not gain an extra stroke by going through a wicket or hitting someone else's ball. This eliminates one player having to wait while another player takes multiple shots. Unlike other croquet games, the players stay together throughout the entire game, which is what makes it very social and fun.

You can learn enough of the rules of Golf Croquet to start playing very quickly. The longer you play, however, the more you begin to consider what your next shot should be. You begin to anticipate what your opponents will do to stop you from scoring and what you can do to increase your own chances for scoring. Should you try to score yourself or hit your opponent's ball away? You begin to think two or three shots ahead and plan your best strategy.

I've had the opportunity to learn to play croquet over the last year and a half, to coordinate the croquet events and provide instruction at Bonita Bay Club. The most popular croquet event is Wine & Wickets. Every Sunday and Tuesday afternoon, the lawn is buzzing with new acquaintances and old friends, all clad in traditional white, enjoying some friendly competition over a glass of wine and some great conversation. Players who are new to the game are welcomed by more experienced players, who are always willing to guide them on rules of the game and offer tips.

The croquet lawn is a great place for families, friends or even business associates to spend some quality time together. What makes running a croquet event so enjoyable for me is hearing someone tell me that they are having so much more fun than they expected to. That happens all the time. Some people dive right into it when they see how competitive it really is. Grandparents and grandkids can compete on the same level; and people of all physical abilities can play together and have fun.

We were lucky enough to kick off our season this year by having 2019's Golf Croquet World Champion Ben Rothman come to Bonita Bay Club and spend a day with us teaching clinics, specifically catered to every level of play. After the clinics, Ben WOWED us all with an exhibition showcasing some sensational shot-making and technique. It was inspiring to see what is possible with a lot of practice ... and talent.

We have a full schedule of events planned for this season, including interclubs with Audubon, Pelican Bay and Wyndemere; and we're looking forward to including more clubs in our schedule as more clubs add croquet lawns.

Croquet can be a wonderful addition to the other activities in your life because it doesn't take long to learn; it doesn't take long to play; and it's just a lot of fun!!



*Members of the Bonita Bay Croquet Club*

***By Kathleen Marteny, Bonita Bay Sports Center***

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LITTLE HICKORY ISLAND

February, 2020

DAY			TIDES FOR LITTLE HICKORY ISLAND					SOLUNAR ACTIVITY
			1 <sup>st</sup> TIDE	2 <sup>nd</sup> TIDE	3 <sup>rd</sup> TIDE	4 <sup>th</sup> TIDE	COEFFICIENT	
1 Sat		▲ 7:11 am ▼ 6:10 pm	12:07 am 0.3 ft ▼	6:08 am 1.1 ft ▲	11:11 am 0.6 ft ▼	5:47 pm 1.8 ft ▲	34 low	
2 Sun		▲ 7:10 am ▼ 6:11 pm	1:25 am 0.1 ft ▼	8:09 am 0.9 ft ▲	11:41 am 0.8 ft ▼	6:29 pm 1.9 ft ▲	27 low	
3 Mon		▲ 7:10 am ▼ 6:12 pm	2:40 am -0.1 ft ▼	7:19 pm 2.0 ft ▲			20 low	
4 Tue		▲ 7:09 am ▼ 6:13 pm	3:46 am -0.4 ft ▼	8:16 pm 2.1 ft ▲			27 low	
5 Wed		▲ 7:08 am ▼ 6:13 pm	4:42 am -0.6 ft ▼	9:15 pm 2.2 ft ▲			27 low	
6 Thu		▲ 7:08 am ▼ 6:14 pm	5:32 am -0.8 ft ▼	1:32 pm 1.3 ft ▲	3:39 pm 1.2 ft ▼	10:12 pm 2.4 ft ▲	41 low	
7 Fri		▲ 7:07 am ▼ 6:15 pm	6:17 am -0.9 ft ▼	1:55 pm 1.3 ft ▲	4:38 pm 1.1 ft ▼	11:07 pm 2.5 ft ▲	62 average	
8 Sat		▲ 7:07 am ▼ 6:15 pm	6:59 am -1.0 ft ▼	2:15 pm 1.3 ft ▲	5:32 pm 1.0 ft ▼		76 high	
9 Sun		▲ 7:06 am ▼ 6:16 pm	12:00 am 2.6 ft ▲	7:38 am -1.0 ft ▼	2:34 pm 1.3 ft ▲	6:25 pm 0.8 ft ▼	97 very high	
10 Mon		▲ 7:05 am ▼ 6:17 pm	12:52 am 2.6 ft ▲	8:16 am -0.8 ft ▼	2:53 pm 1.3 ft ▲	7:21 pm 0.6 ft ▼	104 very high	
11 Tue		▲ 7:05 am ▼ 6:17 pm	1:45 am 2.4 ft ▲	8:51 am -0.6 ft ▼	3:15 pm 1.4 ft ▲	8:20 pm 0.4 ft ▼	111 very high	
12 Wed		▲ 7:04 am ▼ 6:18 pm	2:41 am 2.2 ft ▲	9:25 am -0.2 ft ▼	3:40 pm 1.6 ft ▲	9:24 pm 0.2 ft ▼	111 very high	
13 Thu		▲ 7:03 am ▼ 6:19 pm	3:43 am 1.8 ft ▲	9:56 am 0.1 ft ▼	4:08 pm 1.8 ft ▲	10:36 pm 0.1 ft ▼	97 very high	
14 Fri		▲ 7:03 am ▼ 6:19 pm	4:57 am 1.4 ft ▲	10:25 am 0.5 ft ▼	4:42 pm 1.9 ft ▲	11:58 pm 0.1 ft ▼	83 high	
15 Sat		▲ 7:02 am ▼ 6:20 pm	6:41 am 1.1 ft ▲	10:49 am 0.8 ft ▼	5:23 pm 2.0 ft ▲		62 average	
16 Sun		▲ 7:01 am ▼ 6:21 pm	1:28 am -0.2 ft ▼	6:14 pm 2.1 ft ▲			48 low	
17 Mon		▲ 7:00 am ▼ 6:21 pm	2:54 am -0.4 ft ▼	7:20 pm 2.1 ft ▲			34 low	
18 Tue		▲ 6:59 am ▼ 6:22 pm	4:05 am -0.5 ft ▼	8:35 pm 2.1 ft ▲			27 low	
19 Wed		▲ 6:59 am ▼ 6:23 pm	5:01 am -0.6 ft ▼	9:45 pm 2.2 ft ▲			41 low	
20 Thu		▲ 6:58 am ▼ 6:23 pm	5:47 am -0.7 ft ▼	1:31 pm 1.4 ft ▲	4:25 pm 1.2 ft ▼	10:44 pm 2.2 ft ▲	48 low	
21 Fri		▲ 6:57 am ▼ 6:24 pm	6:24 am -0.6 ft ▼	1:45 pm 1.4 ft ▲	5:18 pm 1.1 ft ▼	11:32 pm 2.2 ft ▲	62 average	
22 Sat		▲ 6:56 am ▼ 6:25 pm	6:55 am -0.6 ft ▼	1:56 pm 1.4 ft ▲	6:01 pm 0.9 ft ▼		76 high	
23 Sun		▲ 6:55 am ▼ 6:25 pm	12:13 am 2.2 ft ▲	7:22 am -0.4 ft ▼	2:05 pm 1.4 ft ▲	6:40 pm 0.7 ft ▼	83 high	
24 Mon		▲ 6:54 am ▼ 6:26 pm	12:50 am 2.1 ft ▲	7:45 am -0.3 ft ▼	2:14 pm 1.5 ft ▲	7:18 pm 0.6 ft ▼	83 high	
25 Tue		▲ 6:54 am ▼ 6:26 pm	1:27 am 2.0 ft ▲	8:07 am -0.2 ft ▼	2:25 pm 1.6 ft ▲	7:58 pm 0.4 ft ▼	83 high	
26 Wed		▲ 6:53 am ▼ 6:27 pm	2:06 am 1.9 ft ▲	8:28 am 0.0 ft ▼	2:40 pm 1.7 ft ▲	8:39 pm 0.3 ft ▼	83 high	
27 Thu		▲ 6:52 am ▼ 6:27 pm	2:47 am 1.7 ft ▲	8:50 am 0.2 ft ▼	3:00 pm 1.9 ft ▲	9:25 pm 0.2 ft ▼	76 high	
28 Fri		▲ 6:51 am ▼ 6:28 pm	3:35 am 1.5 ft ▲	9:12 am 0.4 ft ▼	3:25 pm 2.0 ft ▲	10:17 pm 0.1 ft ▼	62 average	
29 Sat		▲ 6:50 am ▼ 6:29 pm	4:32 am 1.3 ft ▲	9:33 am 0.6 ft ▼	3:55 pm 2.1 ft ▲	11:19 pm 0.0 ft ▼	55 average	

*Solunar activity indicates the most favorable days of the month for catching fish. The strongest activity occurs when there is a full moon or a new moon and is weakest when there is a quarter moon and a three quarter moon.*



# Estero Bay Fishing Report

**TRIPLETAIL IS A GREAT FISH** to hunt for this time of year and provides for a fun and exciting day of fishing. Everything about tripletail is exciting from the site casting to them, to when they jump and make fast drag screaming runs. The only downside to fishing for tripletail is there's not a lot of fishing involved. You spend a lot of time driving around the beaches looking for them. That being said, the drive is well worth it when you find a big one.

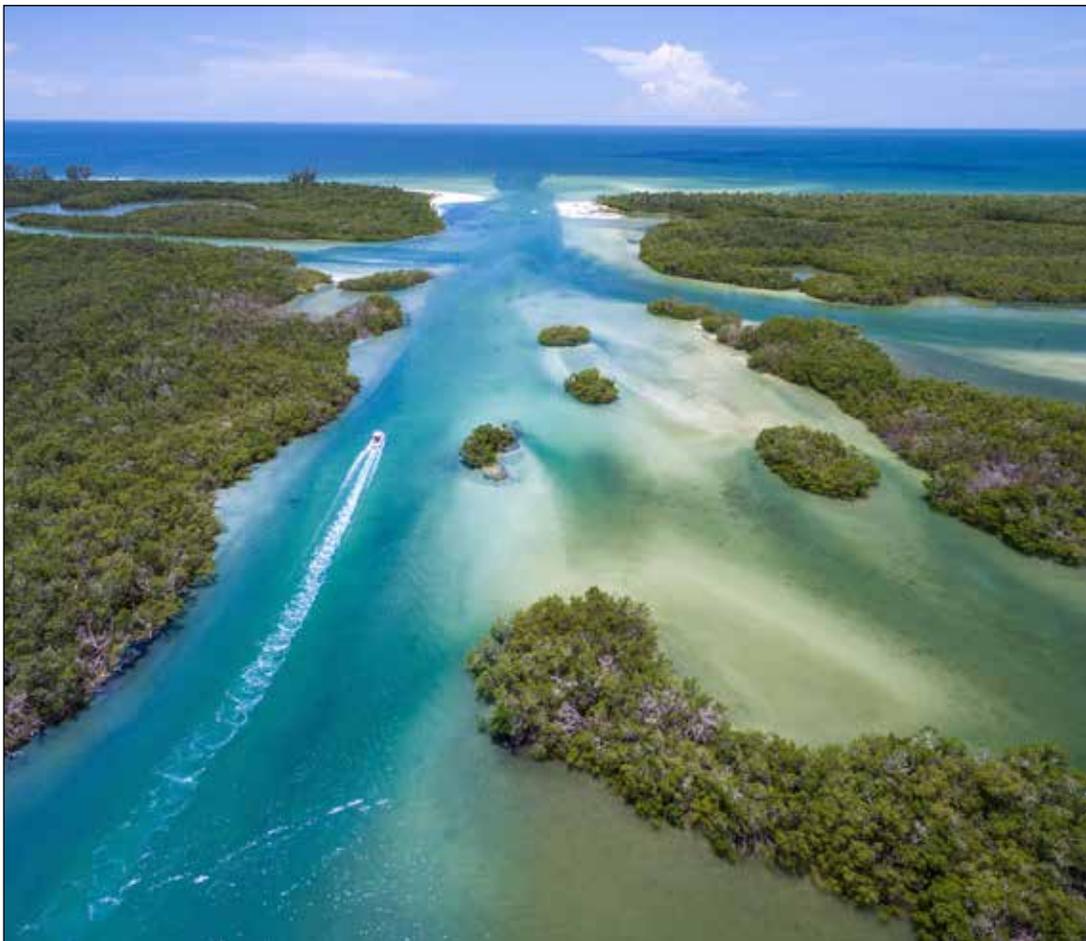
I start out cruising crab traps that are off the beaches 5-8 miles. It is very important to stay off the crab traps when running them with your boat. Tripletail are easily spooked. Once you spook him the jig is up. Just move on to the next one and chalk it up to a lesson learned. When you locate a big silver back, circle back slowly, approaching the fish as quietly as possible. Then make a long cast, aiming past the fish, then reel back towards the fish, stopping 4-5' in front of the fish. Watch the fish's reaction; did he go for it or pass on it? If he passed on it, try 3 or 4 more times before giving up. The bite is very light; you will only feel a tick on the line once if you even feel anything. If you think he took it, just reel until the line is tight and set the hook. Bait is simple; nothing works better than a live shrimp on a 2/O Mustad Beak Bait Hook.



Live Pilchards work as well but my favorite is shrimp.

This time of year brings cooler temperatures, beautiful sunrises and sunsets and some really good fishing. Book a fishing trip today and enjoy all that Southwest Florida has to offer on the water.

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## THE INSIDE STORY

# High Point Furniture Markets

By June Muehr, Creekside

**TWICE A YEAR** the stylemakers, trendsetters and design gurus gather in the otherwise sleepy town of High Point, NC, to determine what the public will see in the marketplace in the coming months. Showrooms come to life, hotels show no-vacancy signs and normally vacant parking lots charge for their sought-after spots. Because of the sheer size of the market, with vendors numbering in the thousands and buyers in the hundreds of thousands, there is literally something for everyone.

Each year the companies from previous furniture markets show up to define and refine their offerings, and new companies exhibit, in the temporary spaces, those products they hope will capture the buyer's imagination. Success could mean sustainability for companies struggling to remain relevant as styles come and go. The vendors at the High Point furniture market have to anticipate not only what the domestic market will support but must be mindful of the trends in the international market as well. High Point attracts buyers from all over the world. As much as our marketplace is influenced by the political climate and economy here in the United States, the suppliers to High Point must also be cognizant of international economic issues, political trends and lifestyle constraints posed by the buyers from abroad. While American buyers, representing retailers, designers and architects, by far outnumber the international buyers, the foreign market is still substantial.

Held in April and October each year, the High Point market is the "granddaddy" of all the domestic markets. Smaller markets appear in New York, Las Vegas, Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Atlanta, but representation is more limited. Buyers have to provide industry credentials and must have accounts with vendors in order to attend the market. The showrooms are not open to the public during the 1½-week long market. When a designer promises a client that "I can take you to High Point," it usually means that you could visit one of the large discounted furniture consolidators on the outskirts of town. During market weeks, most vendors have order minimums, so it isn't practical for them to accommodate small orders. Buyers have to continue to meet those minimums to keep their accounts active.

The most recent High Point furniture market was in October. One of the noticeable trends was that the extensive use of grey that we've seen over the past few years is ending. A thriving economy and positive jobs outlook have resulted in the use of more color. The neutral of choice was more likely a taupe, with accents of yellow, burnt and bright orange, sage and mint green, and the color of the year, Classic Blue.

Curves were everywhere, in chair backs, headboards and tables. Chair backs also had more detail, using fretwork, woven textures, cane and wood insets as well as rattan and sea grass. Animal print fabric is still strong, and is considered by many to be a classic. Prints such as Tibetan tiger, zebra and



leopard appear in art as well as fabric. There was a tactile trend in fabrics, with velvets, cut velvet, bouclé and quilting. There was a trend toward furniture that combined mixed materials, such as wood and metal, marquetry, glass insets and mother-of-pearl accents. Table bases were often a material different from the tabletop.

Botanical influences have remained strong, progressing from fabric into wallcoverings (currently enjoying a renaissance) and on into light fixtures. Abstract art was still favored in many showrooms. Clean lines in styling were prevalent, with very little of the earlier ornate

furnishings of the past.

The home furnishings marketplace is fickle! Every six months the industry is mandated with creating new and more interesting products to lure the retail buyers. It is challenging to continue to have to hit the mark, as a large-scale miss could threaten a company's viability. It just makes it more interesting to the buying public.

June Muehr  
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# Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Will Shortz

## TRAFFIC CIRCLES

Careful – speeding might cause an accident!

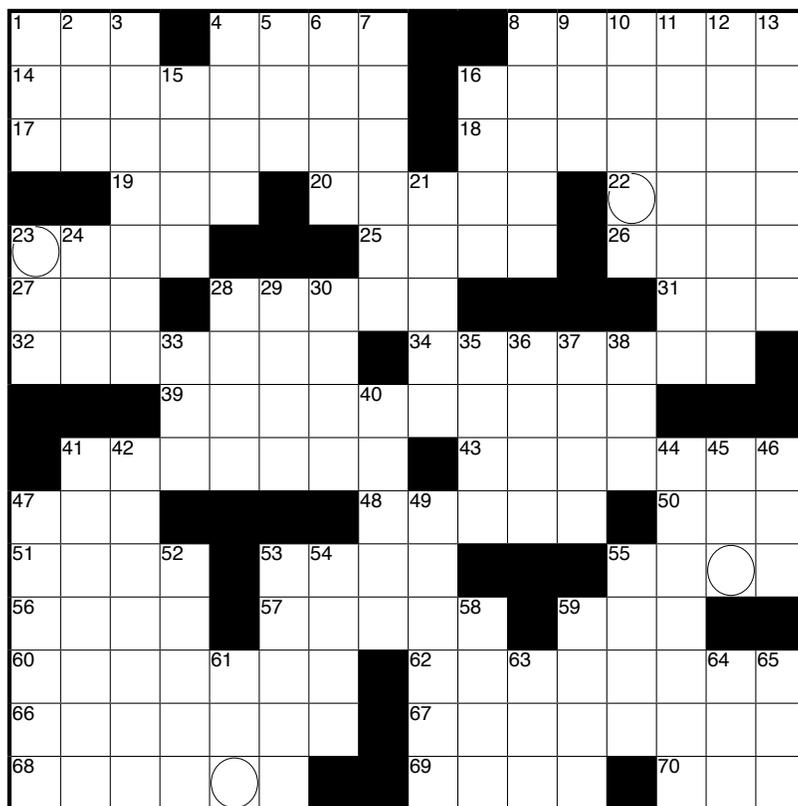
by Damon Gulczynski

### ACROSS

- 1 Ball attendee
- 4 Kid
- 8 “Pulp Fiction” roles for John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson
- 14 Miserly types
- 16 Onslaught
- 17 Part 1 of advice for a pedestrian at an intersection ... or for a solver at each circled square in this puzzle?
- 18 Small stream
- 19 Plea for help
- 20 Lutelike instrument
- 22 Singer/songwriter Johnny [careful – avoid the vehicle in the other direction!]
- 23 Nonsense [careful – avoid the vehicle in the other direction!]
- 25 Tatters
- 26 Toy with a tail
- 27 Red, white and blue letters
- 28 Exams for future M.B.A.s
- 31 Spanish irregular verb
- 32 Ladies of Spain
- 34 Got to the point?
- 39 Part 2 of the advice
- 41 Rice variety used in Indian cuisine
- 43 Soothe
- 47 Band that might go around a biceps, informally
- 48 Garden decoration
- 50 “Call Me Maybe” singer Carly \_\_\_ Jepsen
- 51 Seed coat
- 53 “Away!”
- 55 Sticky stuff [careful – avoid the vehicle in the other direction!]
- 56 Mathematician Descartes
- 57 “You game?”
- 59 Home, informally
- 60 Like a wizard
- 62 Part 3 of the advice
- 66 WHAT THIS CLUE IS IN
- 67 Stealthily
- 68 Wipes away [careful – avoid the vehicle in the other direction!]
- 69 Throngs
- 70 911 responder, for short

### DOWN

- 1 Broadband letters
- 2 Green: Prefix
- 3 007 before Craig
- 4 Perennial campaign issue
- 5 Psyche component
- 6 Solidifies
- 7 Shorts go-with
- 8 Quibblers split them
- 9 Hip-hop producer Gotti
- 10 Elephant’s grabber
- 11 The blahs
- 12 Spewed out
- 13 Like hell?
- 15 “All right, I agree”



20 MINUTES / 81 WORDS

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(www.crosswordtournament.com)

- 16 “I am the greatest,” e.g.
- 21 Sample
- 23 Roast beef au \_\_\_
- 24 Exploit
- 28 Fat unit
- 29 Rudolph of “Bridesmaids”
- 30 Helper: Abbr.
- 33 Punch lines?
- 35 Questlove coiffure
- 36 Work with the feet?
- 37 Writer \_\_\_ Stanley Gardner
- 38 Outdoor sports chain
- 40 Really into
- 41 Leave nothing hidden
- 42 Like part of the body that’s gone to sleep
- 44 Scholarly
- 45 Little sucker?
- 46 “A mouse!”
- 47 Touchdown site
- 49 Sarge, for one
- 52 Classic camera
- 53 Switches
- 54 Dutch artist Frans
- 55 [OMG!]
- 58 River through Florence
- 59 Next-to-last Greek letters
- 61 Fire
- 63 Gambling inits.
- 64 \_\_\_ de plume
- 65 Receive

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bowl and large platter. Starting \$300.

**RENAISSANCE GOWN** Beautiful, handmade, Renaissance gown, historically accurate, \$100. The overdress is a lovely dark green velvet with metallic design. It has a light-green satin underskirt and long, light-green sheer sleeves. In keeping with Renaissance style, the matching velvet sleeves can be attached over the sheer sleeves. Dress fits about a size 8. This was a custom-made dress, worn once for a Mardi Gras ball, and would be a wonderful Halloween costume. Call Carolyn at (239) 949-0949, or cell (703) 785-3052.

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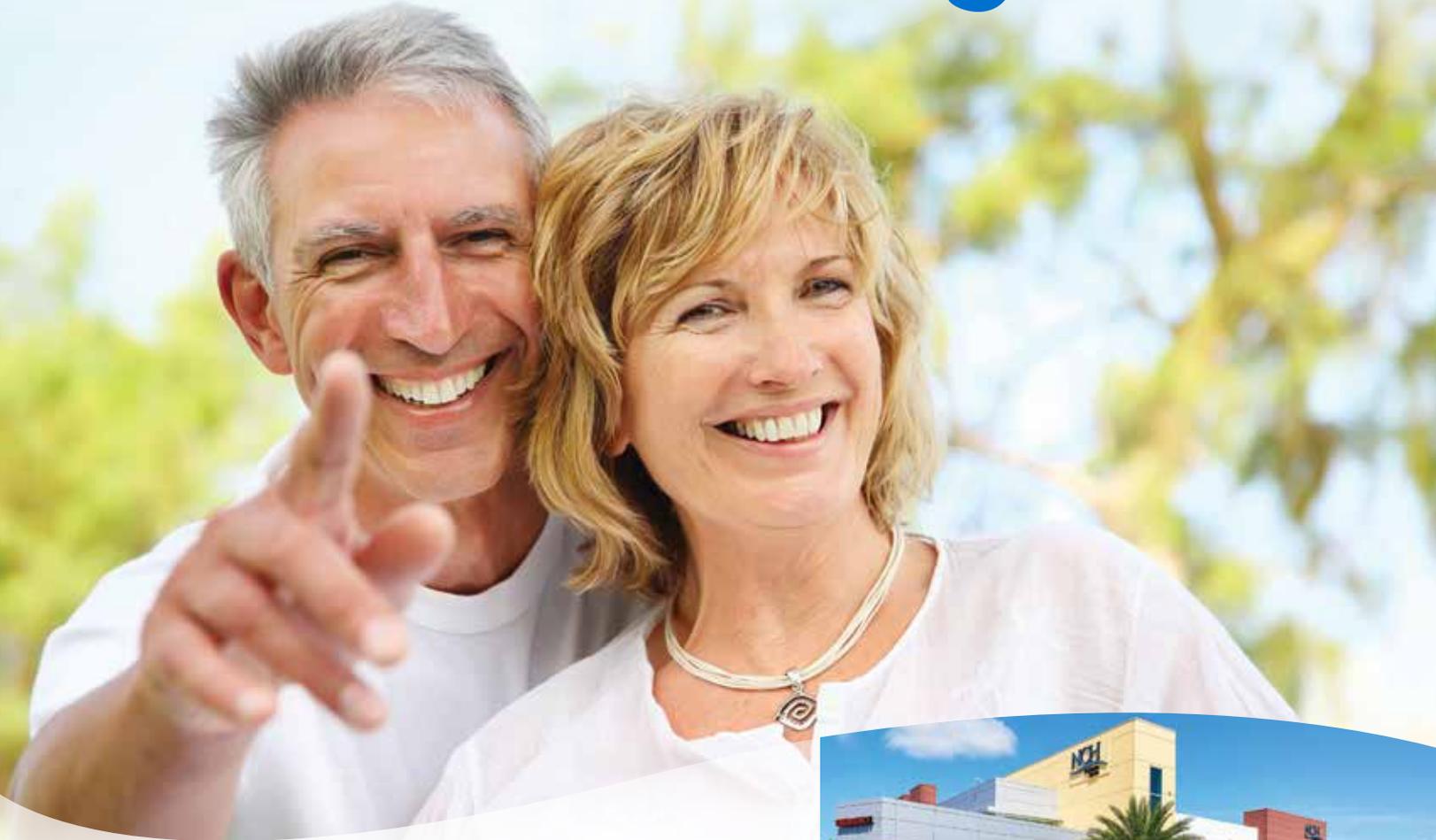
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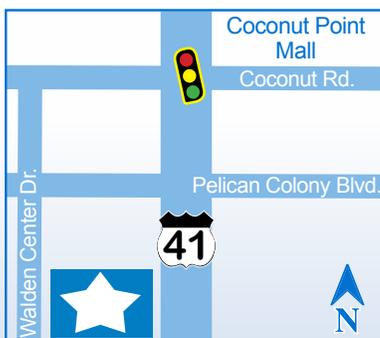


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